

Much Speculation in Regard To Imperial Conference

Overseas Governments Were Consulted in Regard to Allies' Reply to the German Peace Note--Will Canada be Called Upon to Bear the Share of Britain's War Debt--British Statesmen are Great Persuaders.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Jan. 25.—Gossip in the corridors still centres around Premier Borden's coming visit to the Imperial Conference. What is the message he will bring back? Will he put Canada in pledge while he is over there, or will he come back and get the consent of Parliament?

Although the matter has not been made public yet, it is an open secret among the members of Parliament that all the Overseas governments, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, were consulted in regard to the Allies' reply to the German peace note. The views of the various Overseas governments were found to correspond with those of the Allied Governments and the reply was drafted with their previous knowledge and consent. No doubt the British government took the view that Canada had paid well to get a look in on the negotiations and a look in she got. The logic of this attitude is, of course, that Canada accepts joint responsibility with the European powers for the continuance of the war, and the outcome of this joint responsibility is that Canada should take a hand when the peace terms are being settled.

Canada's Responsibility.

In short, Great Britain seems disposed to let Canada take as much responsibility and, inferentially, as much of the burden of the war as she feels disposed. Such being the case, members of parliament are asking what Premier Borden will do next? Having subscribed to the Allied reply and thereby having established Canada's title to take part in the peace treaty, what is the next step which the Borden Government contemplate?

Having accepted the doctrine of joint responsibility for the war and the peace, it follows in some minds that there should be joint responsibility for

the trials and troubles and gargantuan taxes which will be the fruit of Great Britain's staggering war debt after the war is over. Also, there is the cost of imperial defence.

Will Great Britain want to bear this burden alone, or will Premier Borden be met with suggestions that Canada should bear a share by way of a yearly contribution of fifty millions a year? Such are the views of Mr. Lionel Curtis and his fellow enthusiasts of the Round Table. What is more to the point, such are the views of Lord Curzon, Lord Milner, Bonar Law, members of the inner war cabinet who have a very high idea of the duty of the colonies toward the Empire, and such are the views of Sir Edward Carson, who loathes home rule so much that he has kept Ireland out of it for the last five years.

True Old Tories.

What Parliament cannot help observing is that when Premier Borden goes to the Imperial Conference he sticks his head into a den of the finest old crusted high Tories that England has seen in cabinet positions for the last ten years.

They belong to the good old high-binding Tory type which built up the Empire in the eighteenth century, incidentally losing the United States of America by the ripeness of their opinions.

Mr. Lloyd George is a restraining influence, but of course Premier Lloyd George can't be with Premier Borden to protect him all the time. They'll find him and get at him some day when David Lloyd George isn't looking. Besides, Premier Lloyd George would probably side with them anyway!

Great Persuaders.

The question Parliament is asking is, will Premier Borden be able to stand up to them or will they put it in his eye? They are great persuaders over there in Westminster. The last time

Premier Borden went to a conference in England he came back with three dreadnoughts—in his head—put there by Winston Churchill, who has since blown up.

When Premier Borden couldn't put his Canadian special contribution policy over, he was so enraged that the Niobe and the Rainbow were not only dismantled, but the tenders for the Laurier navy were dropped in the waste basket, with the result that when the war broke out Canada was in the humiliating position of having no ships either to defend herself with or to help the Mother Country. In short, Premier Borden went back on his favorite doctrine of letting well enough alone by making it a great deal worse.

Sir Robert's Habit.

Premier Borden, on the other hand, has developed a habit since the war began of doing things first and explaining or neglecting to explain them afterwards. Premier Borden does a lot of governing by order-in-council, which of course is the good old Tory way of doing it. By order-in-council we have his National Registration movement, which aims to mark time until the government can see what happens. By order-in-council, we also have Sir Geo. Perley, Overseas Minister of Militia, the first Canadian cabinet minister we have seen fit to keep in London since Confederation, fifty years ago.

Sir George Perley, as Overseas Minister of Militia, marks a change in our constitution which may be epochal.

Perley in Close Touch.

Sir George Perley's office in Victoria street is only three or four blocks away from Downing Street. He is therefore in close touch with the Imperial government physically, and if reports be true, in even closer touch spiritually. Sir George has become saturated with the London atmosphere and is now very, very English, which is the most natural metamorphosis in the world for a gentleman who was born in the United States.

Sir George is one of those staunch democrats, quite prevalent in the United States, who dearly love a country that can make them knights and baronets. Sir George is said to be working for a peerage.

Knowing Sir George's tendencies, Parliament does not reckon on his acting as a brake on Premier Borden's impulsiveness. We may take it for granted that five great minds—Lloyd George, Milner, Curzon, Carson and Balfour—will concentrate their argument on one lone premier from overseas. What chance has the poor fellow against this brilliant attack? They will surround and envelope and scorch his back hair like a curtain of fire.

Naturally they will ask him for all that England would like to have from Canada, and we would be glad to feel that Premier Borden will answer by offering all that Canada can afford to give. But this is not parliament's experience of Premier Borden. When he gets one of those promising moods on he would part with his suspenders, or anybody else's.

After the War Troubles.

Canada will have her own troubles after the war—troubles she has been glad to assume for love of the Mother Country. Not to mention the treasure of blood Canada has spent, there will be a national debt of staggering proportions, taxes such as run not in the memory of man, and interest charges and a pension list that will aggregate one hundred million dollars a year. All told it will take about three hundred and fifty million dollars a year to see us through.

Some have alluded to this as a man's burden on a boy's neck, but Canada cheerfully bears it as the price of her duty to the British Empire. Canada has done and continues to do her bit, fights for the Motherland, and pays her own way.

When the war is over she will have a big bill to foot. The question everybody is asking now is whether Premier Borden intends doing anything while in England to make it bigger.

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The points competition for the breast
pins donated by Mr. A. A. Shute closed
last night. The winning rink was
composed of W. A. McLellan, W. A. Van-
wart, C. H. Weddall and F. P. Hatt,
skip. It scored 90 points.

Three matches were played last
night in the Managing Committee ser-
ies. The results were:

N. Dougherty...15 W. A. McLellan 8
H. V. B. Bridges...11 L. C. Macnutt 9
S. D. Simmons...13 R. B. VanDine 9

The standing in the competition now
is:

	Won.	Lost.
J. E. Page	4	0
C. H. Weddall	5	1
E. H. Allen	3	1
H. V. B. Bridges	3	1
F. W. Porter	2	1
F. P. Hatt	2	1
T. A. Belmore	2	1
T. A. Wilson	2	1
S. D. Simmons	2	3
H. E. Fowler	1	2
R. B. VanDine	1	4
L. C. Macnutt	1	4
E. J. Miles	1	4
N. Dougherty	1	5
C. W. Hall	0	1
W. A. McLellan	0	1

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2. Don't play office politics.
3. Always have a sense of humor.
4. Don't fear criticism.
5. Have faith in higher things and come up to them.
6. Don't be jealous.
7. Don't be mastered by dislikes.
8. Don't do the easiest thing because it is easiest.
9. Don't like anyone too well.
10. Keep physically alert.
11. Always do more than you are paid for.
12. Criticize yourself.

It's all right to make some things go
as far as possible, but it isn't policy to
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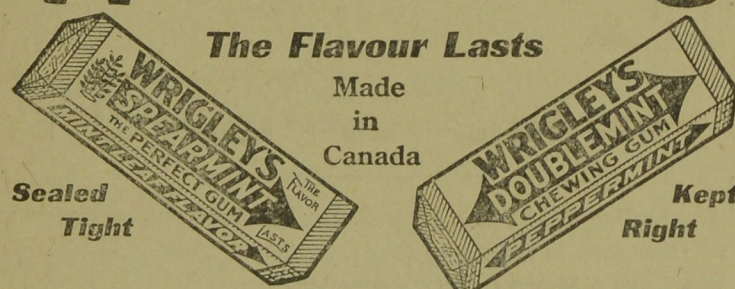
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