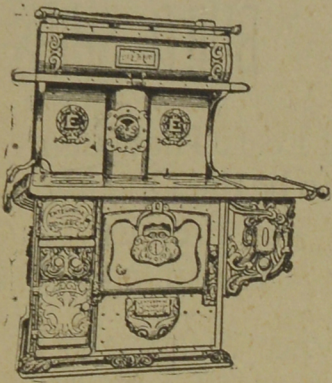


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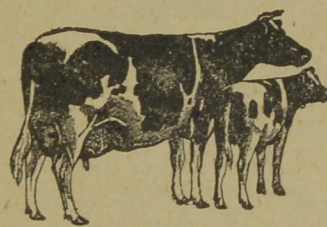
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Parliament Engaged In an Historic Struggle

Liberals Refused to Stand for Hon. Bob Rogers Bulldozing Methods--Sir Wilfrid Laurier and His Followers are Determined That the People Shall Decide the Naval Issue

(Special Correspondence)

Ottawa, March 10—Parliament is now in the throes of a trial of strength over Mr. Borden's naval propositions, which from the first has been the inevitable outcome of the debate. The position is now perfectly clear. The Government presents its Bill providing for a \$35,000,000 contribution, backed up by speeches from the Prime Minister which make it beyond doubt that this first payment of contribution will be followed by others, making it a permanent policy of imperial naval tribute—putting back the hands of progress more than 40 years and introducing a totally new principle into the Canadian policy. The Government is determined to use every means in its power to force this measure through Parliament without any mandate from the people, and without intention of getting any such mandate.

The Opposition takes the ground that, while equally willing to adopt any reasonable measure for the purpose of "immediately increasing the effective naval forces of the Empire" they are not willing to allow a measure, which practically amounts to altering the constitutional course of the Dominion, go through without the people being given an opportunity to express their opinion.

The points at issue are—
Mr. Borden's proposal—"That from and out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada there may be paid and applied a sum not exceeding \$35,000,000 for the purpose of immediately increasing the effective naval forces of the Empire" with further provision in the Bill that this money should be spent on three dreadnoughts to be handed over to Great Britain for use in the Imperial navy.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's proposition: "That from and out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada there may be paid and applied a sum not exceeding \$35,000,000 for the speedy organization of a Canadian Naval Service in co-operation with and in close relation to the Imperial navy." The cleavage is absolute. On the one hand, the old Tory doctrine of Imperial subservience and colonial tribute; on the other side, the Liberal doctrine of Imperial unity with colonial autonomy; the establishment of a fleet which will fulfill the demands of the British Admiralty by guarding and patrolling the Canadian waters, in close relation with the Imperial navy, and ready at any time of danger to sail at the orders of the Canadian Government to the aid of the Imperial fleet.

This is the issue which Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his followers are determined that the people shall decide. This is the issue which the Tory party under Mr. Borden is determined the people shall have no voice in deciding. It is the issue upon which the Opposition has taken its future, and is now once more engaged in the centuries old struggle between the forces of Liberalism for the freedom of the people and the powers of Toryism for the muzzling of the people and establishment of autocratic Government.

With the well-organized fight now being waged in Parliament by the Liberal ranks, the issue must be eventually transferred to the polls, where it should be fought. When that time comes, whichever way the people decide, history will record that on this occasion the Liberal party fulfilled its traditional duty of ensuring to a free people a free voice in the shaping of the issues of their own country when any great constitutional change is contemplated. Whatever the results of the polls may be, Liberalism must win as it is certain to do in the long run with all free people under constitutional government.

HON. MR. ROGERS STARTED THE TROUBLE.

The call to arms in parliament came with dramatic suddenness, significantly precipitated by the autocratic methods of Hon. Robert Rogers—the co-worker with Sir Rodmond Roblin in the Macdonald bye-election outrages. On Monday evening there had been a lengthy debate as to the approximate cost of warships built in Canada, occasioned by the absurd figures quoted by Premier Borden, which were time and again shown to be erroneous. Suddenly Hon. Mr. Rogers, who had been out of the Chamber a large part of the evening, attempted to apply the gag by complaining that the Liberals were out

of order in this discussion, although Premier Borden and other ministers had taken a leading part in the talk. Deputy Speaker Blondin supported Hon. Mr. Rogers and after a sharp debate, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, at two o'clock in the morning, suggested that the House adjourn. Premier Borden shared with his followers the idea that the opposition was in a quandary and, elated with the idea that he could apply pressure to them refused to adjourn.

TORIES PAINED AND SURPRISED.

A sudden and painful awakening awaited the government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, unwearied by the lengthy discussion, in a brief speech syllogized the points at issue. Common sense, he declared, demanded that before voting so much money parliament and the people should know what it was to be spent for, and what the ships would cost; while Mr. Borden had made it plain that this contribution must be periodically followed by others. The opposition had voted in favor of spending the \$35,000,000, but was there no better way of spending the money than in a contribution? Australia was increasing the effective naval forces of the empire by building its own fleet.

"We believe in the naval defence of the empire as much as hon. gentlemen opposite do, but we differ in the method to be employed. . . . considering the question only from the point of view of broad patriotism we decided in favor of a Canadian fleet."

Was it not better that this money should be expended on the defence of Canada's shores with vessels that should be a first line of defence in case of any possible attack? This was a point that would be keenly felt in British Columbia, for instance, if the British-Japanese treaty should ever be repealed and Canada's Pacific Coast left undefended as it is now.

"These are some of the reasons," concluded Sir Wilfrid, "which compel us to do as in 1909, support the policy which will provide for fleet units of our own in Canada, which will give us a line of defence for our own shores and our own commerce and enable us to take our place in the conflict if an imperial necessity should ever arise."

Therefore, it was that Sir Wilfrid

moved the amendment that the \$35,000,000 should be voted for "the speedy organization of a Canadian naval service in co-operation with and in close relation to the imperial navy."

MET PRESSURE WITH FORCE.

This came as a complete surprise to the government forces. It opened wide the gates of debate upon the whole question of Canada's naval policy, its cost and ultimate results, and thus paved the way for the opposition to take a definite and determined stand against Mr. Borden's attempt to rush his proposals through the House.

In a moment the fight was on. The demands of the government to apply the gag was defeated and from that time to the present moment there has been a steady day and night discussion of the matter from the Liberal benches, while the government side has to sit tight, simply keeping enough members around to see that a quorum is maintained and to avoid the possibility of a snap vote. So

(Continued on page three.)

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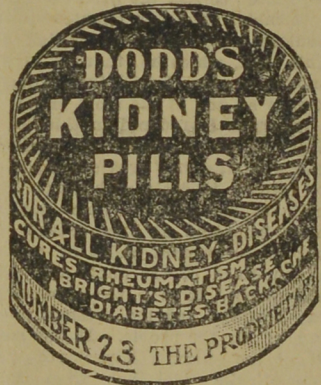
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