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THE DUTY OF CANADIANS TO THE OLD LAND

Sir Wilfrid's Ringing Words at London Banquet—Answers Annexation Cry—Sturdy Reply to the Blue Ruin Agitators—The Policy of Preference to Britain Has Been Hoisted to the Top of the Mast and There it Will Remain.

"In this matter (trade), as in all other matters, and on all occasions, Canada will be prepared to do its whole duty, by old England."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

During his stay in London Sir Wilfrid Laurier made an important speech on trade questions at a banquet given to the Prime Ministers of the overseas dominions at the Constitutional Club. Brief extracts only of the speech were cabled at the time. British papers recently to hand report Sir Wilfrid, after a few preliminary observations in response to the toast "Our Guests," proposed by the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, as saying:

THE CANADIAN PREFERENCE

"You have said—that has gone deep into my heart—that what we have in view is the welfare of each one of us, whether here or coming from a distance—what is best for the Empire as a whole. It is fourteen years since we in Canada introduced the system of a preferential tariff to Great Britain—(cheers)—without any conditions—(renewed cheers)—believing in our heart of hearts that the policy was sound economically, and that it was sound politically, and that it was in the best interests of the British Empire. We have had no reason to repent of our action. (Cheers). The test has been the test of fourteen years, and the more we have had of it the better we have liked it. (Cheers). The preference we gave was 12 1/2 per cent. It worked well. We increased it to 15, and it worked better. We increased it to 25 per cent. and it worked still better. (Cheers). Our trade, which had been dwindling, has doubled and trebled, and we have hoisted the policy of our British preference to the top of the mast. (Cheers.) It has flown there for fourteen years, and it is there to stay, whatever you do or do not do in this country."

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

"But I read in the eyes of some of those who now do me the honor of listening to me a question which has not been formulated, because the occasion does not permit. Let me anticipate that question and answer it. I see in the eyes of many around me the question: 'But whilst you talk of British preference, is not Canada, by the reciprocity agreement with the United States, giving a blow, and a fatal blow, to that British preference?' I have not come here to talk British politics. Apart from that consideration, I say that for such a charge—I will not call it a charge, but for such a doubt there is not, in my humble judgment, the slightest cause of alarm. I want you to remember that the agreement made with the United States is not a solemn treaty carried out under the strict rules of a protocol, and signed in the first instance by the King. It is simply an arrangement signed by the Finance Minister of the Dominion and the Secretary of State of the United States, under which if the duties on certain classes of Canadian natural products alone are reduced or abolished in the United States, a similar course will be adopted with certain goods entering Canada from the United States. But there is no time limit to the agreement. It is not a treaty, and it can be revised next year it need be—(loud cheers)—or at any time which suits the convenience of the respective Governments. There is no occasion for alarm upon that score. When we are told that we have chained our liberty and paralyzed our movements, I say you have only to look at the correspondence and you will see that we can come to any other policy that may meet our case in the future instead of that which may suit us today."

NO FEAR OF "ANNEXATION."

"I come to another objection, which a remark that reaches my ear leads me to: 'Are you not by this policy leading to the annexation of Canada by the United States?' Again I say that I believe in the party system. There are friends of mine here on the Conservative side of Canadian politics who condemn the policy of reciprocity with all their might—who believe that it is wrong. I find no fault with them. Canada, thank God, is a free country, and they are welcome to their views."

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When they declare that this principle of reciprocity is wrong, I say it is not. But when I am told that this agreement, if carried out, would lead to annexation, I think I have the right to say that I do not believe it. If I did believe it I should not have advocated the policy which I have advocated. My course would have been very different from what it has been. Whilst I give liberty to everyone to say that the policy we have been adopting is wrong, I take the liberty in this country, where freedom of opinion exists, to say that I believe in my heart of hearts that the charge is not warranted. The charge is that if we have a certain number of years of this policy we shall have free trade, and that when the advantages of free trade are appreciated annexation will follow. But let me appeal to history. In 1854 we had a treaty, negotiated by Lord Elgin, which lasted for twelve years—and that was at a period when the provinces were scattered. When the treaty was repealed it was a severe blow to Canada. But what did our ancestors do? Did their loyalty falter; did anyone think that it would not stand the blow? What they did was to form a Canadian federation and stand up and say that they would not be bullied by the United States. (Cheers). In the words of a French poet: 'Où le pere a passé, passera bien l'enfant'—where the line has been opened by the father, the son will go through. It may be that we shall suffer for what we do, but I cannot admit the argument that if we are permitted to sell our goods to the United States we shall be compelled to sell our honor or allegiance of our country."

GUIDED BY THREE PURPOSES.

"In all these matters we are guided by three purposes in Canada—and let me put them before you. The first is that our efforts will be to trade with the mother country in preference to any other country. (Cheers.) We want to buy from her in preference to any other country, we want to sell to her in preference to any other country. That is the first purpose; but does it follow that because we want preference with the mother country we want to trade with her alone? No; we want to sell first to Great Britain; then we want to trade with all countries in the world—our second purpose. And our third principle is that with the privileges and advantages we shall give to the mother country we must not think of discriminating against England than we should think of cutting off our right arm. These are the principles that animate us. In this matter, as in all other matters, and on all occasions, Canada will be prepared to do its duty, and its whole duty, by old England." (Cheers.)

HIGHWAY ROADS

(Continued from page eight.)

this year, but would do so no more. Not having much to do this year he concluded he would substitute labor for hard cash. "I worked a couple of days on the road," he went on, "and I never had such a picnic my life. I will have statute labor for mine everytime from this out." It is all very well for men in the county to work on the roadside a few days out of the year and have a sociable time together but there is a serious side to it which is manifestly to the disadvantage of the country. The road work is done in the most perfunctory manner and the farmers are the real sufferers in the long run from bad roads."

THE UNIQUE MONDAY

The Unique management have secured for next Monday and Tuesday, an exact reproduction of the great Coronation ceremonies taken by the largest film manufacturers in the world (and shown for the first time in Canada). This great feature of all features shows Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Canadian troops and clearly and faithfully depicts the entire events of interest, including the procession to Westminster Abbey, the return etc. every picture being clear and life sized. Notwithstanding the extra expense the management have been put to in securing this stupendous production there will be no advance in prices. Ladies and children would do well to try and attend the matinees which start at sharp 3 p. m."

DEAN SCHOFIELD'S REPORT ON THE CATHEDRAL FIRE

The report upon the condition of Christchurch Cathedral, Fredericton, made by the dean to the Cathedral Chapter yesterday set out in part:

"As far as we can judge, the walls of the nave, both aisle and clerestory, are intact and can be used again, with the possible need of rebuilding some small sections. The walls of the sanctuary, as well as the east end, appear to be in good condition. In both instances it is impossible as yet to say what damage has been done by water. The west end of the building, where the bolt struck and the fire began, is severely injured and may have to be rebuilt in part. It is with the roof and tower that the fire played dreadful havoc. The spire is entirely demolished, and nothing is left of the tower but the four walls; and these will probably all have to come down and be rebuilt, as each face is badly cracked down the centre. As for the once glorious roof, while it is still in position there would seem to be no hope of saving any of it, so terrible is the destruction that has been wrought by the flames. Regarding the foundations, nothing can be asserted as yet with certainty. Portions of the floor near the west end are destroyed by the flames, and it may be that both fire and water will have done serious damage."

"Regarding the stained glass of the windows it is impossible to speak with any certainty. To the casual observer four of the seven panels of the east window are intact, while the portions in the tracery seem badly damaged. It is difficult, however, to believe that when one panel in a window has been badly destroyed by the heat, the lead in the next window should not have suffered. We may find, I fear, that much of the glass which seems in good condition will have to be taken down and re-set. The west window seems to have been badly damaged, both as regards glass and the tracery. Some of the disfigurement may, however, be due to smoke only, and be capable of treatment. Of the aisle windows perhaps more than half the glass is saved, out of the windows in the clerestory probably less than half is saved."

A tribute is paid to those who helped to save the furniture and reference to the valued articles recovered from the flames, and the report continues:

"But there are losses, and heavy ones. First the exquisite chime of eight bells is gone. As far as we could tell, not a bell of the eight fell. For an hour during the conflagration they rang bravely at each quarter, and even when their motive power was gone they melted still in position. Several of the iron tongues are all there is left. With the bells, their companion, the clock, is also, I fear, a complete loss, and though some will think the remark foolish, it will be a difficult and exceedingly expensive task to replace the cathedral clock. For sixty years it has done its work, watched over carefully by the White family, father, son and grandson, that almost without intermission in all that time it has warned the town of the light of time. The beautiful copy of Murillo's Holy Family is also completely destroyed. The sanctuary carpet, worked by English ladies at the time of the cathedral's building, is, of course, ruined, while the pews and stalls, though for the most part intact, are defaced and injured by falling timbers and the deluge of water."

"The new organ, already well known for its beauty of tone, is, I expect, a total loss, since not only was there fire actually in the instrument, but the water was poured into it for hours. The congregation only last March made the last payment upon the organ, which cost upwards of \$7,000."

"To give us heart for the work of restoration, we may, I think, count on \$50,000 of insurance. In addition to this, we have what must of course be treated as his personal subscription to the restoration, James F. Robertson's \$5,000 of insurance. The Venerable Sub-Dean Street, in a pathetic letter, has enclosed \$10 as a first contribution from himself and Mrs. Street. We can count without doubt upon the liberality not only of church people, but of very many of those who belong to other Christian bodies, for already most sympathetic letters and resolutions have been received from all parts of the province."

"To sum up then: While you will perceive from the hastily written report that our noble cathedral has been sadly and terribly dealt with. While to stand within the ruins today presents a sight which may well make the strongest heart among us find control exceedingly difficult, yet my own judgment, formed upon a careful study of the situation, is one in which I hope I shall carry you all with me."

"I believe, if we are prepared to up the task in honest faith and steady courage, sparing neither patience nor expense, that we can, under God, restore once again practically the very cathedral which John Medley, bishop and saint, gave to this diocese some sixty years ago."

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