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SIR WILFRID AND IMPERIAL WARS

There sits in the Commons at Ottawa a gentleman named Gilbert, a Nationalist member. Mr. Gilbert was elected on a platform in which the chief plank was 'opposition to any participation by the Dominion in the work of maintaining an effective British naval force. In his campaign for election he had as his two leading platform speakers Mr. Henri Bourassa, the Nationalist chieftain, and Mr. F. D. Monk, M.P., who is Mr. Borden's French-Canadian lieutenant, and on taking his seat in the Commons Mr. Gilbert's first act as a member was to vote with the Conservatives on a party division, thus making even clearer than it had been before the fact of an alliance between the Borden forces and the Nationalists.

Mr. Bourassa, joint leader with Mr. Borden of the Conservative-Nationalist organization, is the editor of a newspaper published in Montreal. While Mr. Borden attacks Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the ground that the premier is not the ardent Imperialist that the Conservative chief proclaims himself to be, Mr. Bourassa attacks Sir Wilfrid because he is too much of an Imperialist. In a recent editorial, signed by Mr. Bourassa, the Montreal paper declares that there is distinct lack of "moral unity" in the British empire and, sneeringly referring to Laurier, says "Colonials we are and colonialists we will remain, despite the phrases of the Canadian Washington."

The Mail gives that quotation chiefly to show the attitude of the Nationalist leader toward Sir Wilfrid. One or two other quotations from the same editorial will shed further light on the Nationalist hatred of the Liberal chieftain and, at the same time, will give some idea of the position taken by these allies of the Conservatives in respect to Canada's participation in British wars. "Sir Wilfrid Laurier," says the Bourassa-signed editorial, "did not hesitate to take Canadian money and arm Canadian troops to participate in this infamous war (the Boer war). . . . Yes, the Imperial Nestor, the Canadian Washington, found it just and good to massacre 50,000 men, to burn and ravage millions of farms, to pillage peaceable firesides, to violate women and to shut little children up in pestilential camps where they died like flies, because Kruger would not accord the Uitlanders national privileges until after five years' residence. . . . English and African soldiers fell on the velvet for the glory of Chamberlain; women died of shame and misery for the grandeur of Laurier; children's entrails were cut out in the concentration camps for the honor of the empire. What do you think of that?"

The writer of these quoted words is the ally of the Conservative party which declares today that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not as loyal to the empire as are the members of that party. In one place they attack him because they allege, he would not have Canada participate in the empire's wars. In another part of the Dominion Mr. Bourassa, their ally on whom they rely to weaken Laurier's hold in Quebec province, bitterly attacks the premier because Canadian soldiers were sent to fight the battles of the empire in South Africa. Could a more sickening example of political duplicity be imagined? Is it any wonder that many prominent men, hitherto proud of the title Conservative, speak with shame of the alliance?

Since we have touched upon this

matter of Canadian participation in Imperial wars, it may not be amiss to look at the attitude taken by Sir Wilfrid and other noted Canadians in regard to it. A great deal has been said of late as the result of misrepresentation of Sir Wilfrid's position. It has been declared that the Canadian premier took the position at the recent Imperial Conference that Canada might remain neutral when the empire was at war. This misrepresentation was seized upon by unscrupulous Conservatives in this country and heralded forth as an indication of Laurier disloyalty to the empire. As a matter of fact, Sir Wilfrid has again and again emphatically declared that when the empire is at war Canada is at war. What he has claimed, however,—and it is on this declaration that the misrepresentation already referred to has been based—is that Canada need not necessarily rush into an Imperial war if at any time there should be a ministry in London so blinded to modern ideals as to enter upon bloody war merely for the sake of territorial or commercial gain.

"When Great Britain is attacked," to quote from a letter in The London Times dealing with Laurier's position on this great question, "Canada is also attacked and will continue her full share in the common defence." The article goes further, and may well be quoted as giving a London view of Sir Wilfrid. "Laurier is not a separatist, neither in aspiration or in tendency, but a far-sighted statesman seeing things clearly and acting wisely. Strong enough to resist the allurements of cheap popularity based upon pure jingoism and class prejudice, he shapes Canadian policy on lines which history has proved to be safest to ensure the willing cohesion and unconquerable strength of the empire, a strength based upon freedom of action not upon tightened fetters."

Perhaps it may be as well just to draw attention briefly to the position taken in 1885 by Sir John A. Macdonald, the greatest of Canadian Conservatives, when it was suggested to his ministry by the British government that the Dominion might send troops to fight for the Mother Land in the Sudan. At that time, New South Wales had offered troops to assist the English soldiers in the campaign but the Macdonald ministry absolutely declined to send Canadian men to take part in the struggle. Was Sir John disloyal because he was unwilling to have Canadian troops sent to Egypt at Canadian expense to take part in one of the wars of the Mother Country?

No doubt were the conditions of 1885 to arise again today the position of the Laurier government would be similar to that taken by the Macdonald ministry. In one sense Canada would be at war but at the same time there would be no imperative reason why the Dominion should enter the campaign unless the empire was found to be in danger. It is nothing to the disgrace of the Conservative party that the Conservative government of 1885 acted as it did in regard to the Sudan campaign. It is to the disgrace of the Conservative party, however, that today, unchecked by their chiefs, Conservative speakers and Conservative papers glaringly and unscrupulously misrepresent the Liberal position on this great question of Imperial defence and, for the sake of possible petty party advantage, cast imputations of disloyalty upon Liberal statesmen whose position is justified by Conservative precedent as well as by many arguments which an examination of the question soon brings to light. But the alliance with the Nationalists and the disgraceful misrepresentation of the Liberal position will fail to yield the Conservatives that benefit which they have hoped to gain. Unfair tactics rarely fail of their desired purpose.

Opponents of reciprocity in York point with great glee to the fact that potatoes brought a higher price in New Brunswick this year than they did in the United States. The high price on this side of the line was due to the fact that potatoes were a short crop last year. It is of no advantage to the farmers of York to have potatoes bringing a high price when they have none to sell. What they want is a market for potatoes when they do have them to sell and they can usually find it in the eastern states. It was the scarcity of potatoes last year that put the price up.

GAYNOR-GREENE CASE
COST LOT OF MONEY

Washington, July 20.—While Attorney-General Wickersham has been recommending Dr. Wiley's dismissal because of the \$1,600 yearly salary of one of his experts the House of Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice has been busy uncovering the amazingly large extra fees allowed by the Attorney-General to trust busters and Government attorneys on special assignments.

The committee tomorrow will try to find out whether one "special accountant" of the Department of Justice received \$100,000 in the Greene-Gaynor case and how much the United States District Attorney in charge, his assistant and clerk have been paid.

E. O. Johnson who is said to have been employed as an accountant in the case for the last seven years, is expected to tell how much he has received for his services. It is said that United States District Attorney Marion Erwin, who was made special assistant to the Attorney-General conducting the Greene-Gaynor case was paid \$16,435. The Government recovered \$639,966.69 and has a suit pending for the recovery of \$40,000 on the forfeited surety of John F. Gaynor.

Henry L. Stimson, now Secretary of War, as United States District Attorney in New York prosecuted railroad and other corporations for rebating so that fines of nearly \$40,000 were imposed. Then came the sugar trust cases and he resigned to become a Special Assistant to the Attorney-General to prosecute the cases he would otherwise have prosecuted as a salaried official. He recovered \$134,000 on fines and a \$2,000,000 as restitution when the trust lawyers admitted it was responsible for many more millions.

The special expenses of the Department of Justice for two years are said to approximate \$1,000,000.

"THIS DATE IN HISTORY"

1778—Duel between Generals Conway and Cadwallader fought near Philadelphia.

1793—The exploring party of Sir Alexander Mackenzie reached the Pacific.

1812—British and allies under Wellington defeated the French under Marmont in battle of Salamanca.

1832—Napoleon III., only child of Napoleon Bonaparte, died. Born on March 20, 1811.

1853—First pier of Victoria bridge at Montreal begun.

1863—Col. Wilder of Rosecrans' advance, shelled Chattanooga.

1864—Gen. Hood made his first sortie at Atlanta.

1885—Alexander A. Rice, Governor of Massachusetts 1786-79, died in Melrose, Mass. Born at Newton, Mass., Aug. 30, 1818.

1896—George W. Jones, first U. S. senator from Iowa, died at Dubuque.

Under reciprocity steamboat traffic on the St. John River will quadruple in the course of a few years. At least that is the opinion of a gentleman connected with the steamship service on the river.

Two months ago the local Tory organ announced beneath glaring headlines that the Valley Railway contract was to be signed "today or tomorrow." There seems to have been a hitch somewhere.

Should the reciprocity agreement be ratified at Ottawa and Washington in the near future, the farmers of York could confidently look forward to the greatest period of prosperity they have enjoyed since the American civil war.

The action of the road committee of the city council in making provision to lay another block of Tarvia pavement on Queen street meets with general approval. The Tarvia pavement laid down last year appears to be giving good service.

Mr. L. M. Simms of St. John is at the Queen.

DARING ROBBERY
ON SOUTHERN PACIFIC

Grand Forks, N.D., July 21.—Train No. 2, the eastbound North Coast Limited on the Northern Pacific Railway, was held up by three masked robbers near Buffalo, N.D., about 11 o'clock Wednesday night. The robbers secured about \$500 in cash by going through the passengers, and shot Engineer S. Polson, of Fargo, twice in order to make him stop the train, and made a successful escape in an automobile, which they had awaiting them near the scene of the robbery.

The performance, as executed, was one of the most daring ever perpetrated in this part of the country, and showed that the men were no amateurs at the business, as every movement was cleverly planned and admirably executed.

When the train stopped at the high bridge at Valley City the three men boarded it and went into the day coach. Heavily armed and shooting recklessly in order to intimidate the passengers, they first lined the train crew up at one end of the car, and then proceeded to search the passengers in the day coach one by one. In all they secured about \$50 from this part of their robbery. The sleeping car was entered, and in order to awaken the occupants of berths a shot was fired down the centre of the aisle, narrowly missing the head of one of the passengers, and imbedding itself in the woodwork.

After searching the occupants of the berths, they climbed out over the diner, the baggage and the express cars to the engine, reaching that part of the train when near Buffalo. They ordered Engineer Olsen to stop the train so they could get off, and when he refused to comply with their wishes two shots were fired directly at him, one glancing off his watch and the other striking him on a rib, injuring him slightly.

After being wounded, and seeing that the men were desperate, Engineer Olsen stopped the train, and the three men jumped quickly from the train and ran into the darkness. Olsen, who is one of the oldest engineers on the system, was brought into Fargo with the train, and is resting easily at his home here.

After leaving the train the robbers went to an automobile, which they had waiting nearby, and drove off into the darkness. The express and mail cars were not molested by the men.

The train was run into Fargo, where the sheriff, every available deputy, and three deputy United States marshals hurried back on a special train to pursue the robbers.

Convincing
Argument--
POSTUM

10 days in place of tea or coffee—for better health.

"There's a Reason"

NOTED MISSIONARY
DEAD IN NEW JERSEY

East Orange, N.J., July 21.—The Rev. Dr. Caleb Cook Baldwin who passed half a century as a missionary at Foochow, China, and for whom the Baldwin Library was erected in that city, is dead at the residence of his son here from infirmities to his advanced age. He was born near here in 1820. Ten children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Baldwin in China, and it was necessary owing to the hostility of the Chinese to build a wall of masonry around their home for the protection of the first child, who is now Mrs. Harriet Gerry of East Orange.

Messrs L. R. Acker and G. L. Acker of Halifax are at the Barker House.

Mr. C. L. Grace of Moncton is at the Queen.

Mr. S. M. Scott of Halifax is in the city.

JULY 18th, 1911

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