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SIR WILFRID LAURIER'S GREAT SPEECH

(Continued from page three.)

and sorrow, enthusiasm over their heroism and sorrow for their sufferings. Are we going to aid such a people? To put the question is to answer it.

"But there is another country in this war, Great Britain. I call upon every man of good faith to regard the conduct of Great Britain in this war as scarcely less heroic than that of Belgium and France. Great Britain is fighting not only for herself but for France and Belgium. She has felt herself pledged to defend a friendly nation too weak to defend itself.

"I say that the conduct of Great Britain is admirable from every point of view. The criticism has been made that if Great Britain had entered it to the struggle earlier, the war might have been avoided. This is not a time for discussion. It is a time for the union of hearts. But let me say this: everyone knows that for forty years Germany has been preparing for war. For forty years, Germany has believed herself invincible and destined to dominate the rest of the world. If Great Britain had announced her attitude earlier, that would not have prevented Germany from taking the step she took. Germany regards this as an opportune time to crush France completely.

PEOPLE SOVEREIGN.

"Moreover, you know as well as I that Great Britain is a constitutional country. The voice of the people is sovereign. It is an admitted fact that at the beginning of the war the political parties were not in accordance. The Labor and Radical party did not want war at any price. Two members of the government, Mr. John Burns and Lord Morley, resigned their seats in protest against what after all, was only an act of justice. If any attempt had been made to press matters unduly, there would have been a ministerial crisis and the game of Germany would have been played. It is a tribute to the ability and foresight of Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey that all parties in Great Britain are now united in their stand behind Belgium and France."

Sir Wilfrid then referred to the promptitude with which Lord Kitch-

ener had sent an expeditionary force to the continent.

"More admirable still," Sir Wilfrid went on, "was the courage shown by these men on French soil. Here, they fought for France with the same heroism with which they fought Napoleon himself.

"Times, thank God, have changed, and if there is one thing on which I congratulate myself it is to see this union of France and Great Britain."

Making passing reference to Lord Kitchener, Sir Wilfrid spoke of the part which the secretary for war had played in the war of 1870, when Lord Kitchener served with the French troops. Lord Kitchener then fought to save Alsace and Lorraine for France. He was now fighting to get back the two lost provinces.

It might be said that casting in his lot with the Allies was merely chivalry.

"If," Sir Wilfrid remarked, "the criticism is to be made against me that I am too chivalrous, then I accept the criticism. It is a reproach which has always been made to men of French race, and if I am guilty of it, I am proud of it."

GRATITUDE TO CANADA.

As evidence of the gratitude felt in Great Britain and France for the assistance rendered by Canada, Sir Wilfrid read a letter he had recently received from a French lady, whose husband was fighting in the lines. In connection with the letter he told an interesting little story. When, as prime minister, he attended the Queen Victoria Jubilee, Sir Wilfrid said, he was the victim of much "intense publicity." The result was that his portrait and his name appeared in many publications. One day, while in France, following his attendance of the Jubilee, he received a letter from a young girl, who signed herself "Louise Laurier." She wrote to Sir Wilfrid asking if it were not possible that they were relatives.

"I wrote to her," Sir Wilfrid said, in a tone which created much laughter, "that I hoped we were"; and, when search was made it was found, peculiarly enough, that the ancestors of both Sir Wilfrid and the girl came from the same department in France. "We agreed, therefore," Sir Wilfrid laughingly added, "that we were relatives."

Since then, Sir Wilfrid proceeded, the girl had married and her husband had gone to the front with his regiment.

"France," the letter ran in part, "will never forget the generous moral and material assistance given by Canada."

"Will you," ran another sentence

of the letter, "give to your fellow-countrymen the most sincere thanks of a French woman."

Continuing his speech, Sir Wilfrid said:

"I think this letter may be taken as a resume of the situation between France and ourselves. As this young lady says, Canada has given moral and material assistance to France. It may not be great, but however small the part may be which our troops will play in the gigantic struggle, I am sure that they will prove themselves worthy of the country they represent. If their material assistance is not considerable, their moral assistance is enormous. When the German emperor learns that men from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the Boers even, are fighting voluntarily in the ranks of the Allies, he will learn that the force which makes empires is not brute force but respect for human rights."

GERMANY'S CRIME.

"This," Sir Wilfrid repeated, "is the flight of civilization against barbarism. These are hard words to use, but they are true. Since war was declared, Germany has violated every law recognized by civilization. The independence of Belgium had been guaranteed by the Great Powers, of which Germany was one. The Kaiser in disregarding this treaty, committed a crime against humanity."

The words of Herr Von Jagow, Sir Wilfrid said, were a sufficient admission of Germany's crime. Herr Von Jagow had admitted that German troops were in Belgium in violation of the decrees of international law, but claimed that France had been making preparations to invade Germany via Belgium and that Germany would have been prepared to make amends for "the wrong of which we are guilty."

In this charge, Sir Wilfrid said, Herr Von Jagow had not told the truth. He had charged France with not respecting the rights of the weak a charge of which France had never been guilty. If anything, France, in the past, had shown too much sympathy for the cause of the weaker nations.

After a reference to the Kaiser's request to Belgium that German soldiers should be allowed to cross Belgium territory, Sir Wilfrid said that, in refusing, Belgium had preferred to suffer rather than to dishonor herself.

"It was an honor for Belgium and a disgrace to Germany," said Sir Wilfrid, "and if there is a just God, as there is a just God, vengeance will come."

"VICAR OF GOD."

"I have used the name of the German emperor," continued Sir Wilfrid. "He is not an ordinary man. He is a remarkable man. He has proved that he possesses extraordinary faculties, but it remains to be seen if he is in possession of all his faculties. But whatever opinion other people may form about the Kaiser, there is no doubt as to his opinion of himself. He believes himself to be the vicar of God and in his speeches he reveals his soul."

"Here is one of his statements: 'The soldier should have no opinion. There should be only one will, my will; only one law in Germany, my law. There is only one master in this country and I am he.'"

Or, Sir Wilfrid proceeded, take his remarks to his troops before they left for the front:

"Remember that the German people are the chosen of God. On me, as German emperor, the spirit of God has descended. I am his weapon, his sword and his shield! Woe to the disobedient! Woe to cowards and disbelievers!"

Sir Wilfrid concluded his speech with a strong appeal for enlistment in the new corps.

"We want," he said, "equality for all, a vindication of those rights for which Great Britain and France have fought in the past."

HEAT OF SUN IS SLOWLY LESSENING

With the Passing of Old "Sol's" Warmth Humanity Will Cease to Live

The sun is a mass of blazing heat gases 1,300,000 times larger than the earth. Its temperature varies between 8,000 and 12,000 degrees. However vast its heat may be, it can be no exception to the common law of matter. Every day it loses some of its heat and is gradually growing colder. A moment will come inevitably when its radiation will grow weaker, and after that will cease altogether. That will mean death for us in cold and darkness.

There is nothing surprising in the deduction. Millions of extinct suns which were once like our luminary are known to exist in the heavens. Every star is born and lives to die. The problem is to fix the date of its extinction.

In the opinion of many scientists the American astronomer who has threatened us with death in 5,000,000 years has added nothing new to the subject, which scientists have discussed with good arguments for some 50 years.

The first question we must ask is where did the sun obtain the heat with which it maintains our life in a manner so constant? Without doubt we can observe in the sun certain variations of heat. Our winters and summers are not exactly alike but these variations are comparatively small. They are subject to a periodic flux, which brings back nearly the same condition after a certain lapse of time. The climate of the earth has not changed within historical times. Before long we shall experience exceptionally severe winters and torrid summers. What colossal source of power keeps up the sun in this manner? With what mysterious substances is this enormous furnace fed?

The physicists, Mayer and Helmholtz, have given the best answers to this question. The sun was originally much larger than it is at present. In obedience to the laws of attraction, gaseous masses contract and become smaller. The laws of physics teach us that under these conditions a gas may recover the heat which radiation carries it to lose and which is distributed in surrounding space. Calculations show that a contraction of 26 inches a year in the diameter of the sun would cause its heat to remain constant for thousands of years. The sun has a diameter of 886,964 miles. Even supposing the diminution mentioned occurred, no instrument could reveal the change in its diameter in a period of ten centuries.

Thus, according to the mechanical theory of heat, astronomers who may live in the year 12,000 of our era will be able to know what the sun's diameter has diminished about five miles since the beginning of telescopic observation.

In 7,000,000 years the sun will still radiate the same quantity of heat, but its disc will appear to man one-fourth of its present size. From that moment nothing will be able to check the loss of heat which it will undergo through radiation. The average temperature of the earth will show the effect. In our northern countries vegetation will lose a large part of its vitality. The crops will no longer ripen, and the people will press toward the equatorial region. A few million years after that all earthly life will become impossible. The sun will be covered with dark spots, which will gradually grow larger and larger.

Sun Will Lose Light

In a few tens of millions of years after that the sun will have lost its place among the light-giving bodies of the heavens. It will become a black and invisible body, a dangerous derelict of the millions of stars moving through space, but it will still continue its course through space.

From these facts and arguments we may conclude that humanity will still exist for 14,000,000 years, or perhaps 15,000,000 the utmost. We must, however, remember that accidents may occur to shorten this life. A healthy man may reasonably expect to live to 80, but an automobile may end his career in an hour or a day. So it is with our earth.

If the earth dies in the fulness of time it will die from cold in, say, 10,000,000 or 15,000,000 years from now, but there is a host of other dangers that menace humanity. In the ceaseless journey which the earth makes around the sun at the rate of 90-13 miles a second, may it not some day come into collision with the head of a colossal comet? In such a case humanity may witness a frightful spectacle, a dreadful prelude to universal death. What astronomer can assure us that a collision will not occur within a few years? Barring such an accident, however, the end of the earth from cold must be regarded as fixed.

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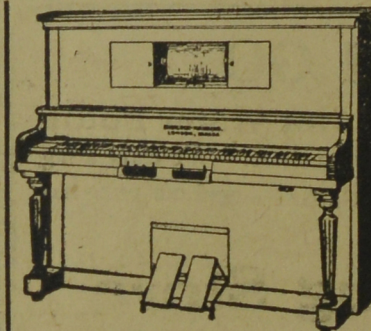
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