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FOOLISH WAR TALK.

Mr. Gourley Tory M. P.
for Colchester N. S.

WANTS TO FIGHT THE YANKEES.

A Useless Discussion that Arose
in the House of Commons
Over one of Bourassa's
Motions.

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The Alaska boundary was once more brought to the front in yesterday's proceedings of the house. The speech of Mr. Bourassa, who brought the subject up, was mild in its reference to Britain and the United States when compared with the fighting attitude of S. E. Gourley, Conservative member for Colchester, who declared himself ready to go to war tomorrow with the United States rather than submit to such kind of humiliation as had been meted out to the dominion when the interests of Canada and the United States clashed.

In answer to J. Robinson, Hon. Mr. Blair said that he intended very soon making a statement in support of the appointment of a commission to inquire into and adjust all differences that may arise between the public and the railway companies of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Blair presented the house with some information prepared by his department concerning the proposed French River proposition. It was asked for by Col. Hughes.

Mr. Bourassa had a number of motions on the order paper. The first was for papers in relation to the Canadian militia and the South African war and the sending or recruiting of Canadian troops. This was granted, as well as another motion for correspondence connected with the disallowance of British Columbia statute relating to immigration into that province and the employment of oriental labor on public works. Another from him asked for correspondence with the British government in respect to the embargo on Canadian cattle. It was passed, after Mr. Fisher explained that there were no prospects at present of the embargo being removed. It was imposed by the British government under a statute and the British minister of agriculture said he could not recommend its removal.

A motion for papers respecting the coronation of the king, from Mr. Bourassa, was also adopted.

Started a Lively Debate.

It was on Bourassa's resolution for correspondence between Canada and the British authorities in relation to the repeal of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and the settlement of the Alaskan boundary that a rather lively debate ensued.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked Mr. Bourassa to drop the motion because the papers could not be brought down while the negotiations were going on.

Mr. Bourassa was not satisfied with this. He did not see why the papers respecting the Clayton-Bulwer treaty should be held back, even if the Alaska boundary correspondence was not ready to be made public. He protested most strongly against the action of the British government in permitting the repeal of this treaty without first having secured a settlement of the Alaska boundary. The interests of Canada were sacrificed in this matter. As a matter of fact, said he, the interests of Canada were always being sacrificed when the interests of the United States clashed with those of the dominion. He wanted to know what position the Canadian government took and if the British government consulted Canada. He pointed to the work of the Anglo-American commission and said that whenever it came to a point as between Canada and the United States the British representatives always sided with the United States. Sir Louis Davies, a member of that commission said that it took him three months in London to get the officers of Mr. Chamberlain to take the side of Canada. He referred to Hon. David Mills' articles on the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, which pointed out that Britain ought not to have abandoned one iota of its right without first getting security for the Alaska boundary settlement. He said that in this case, as in the Alabama case, the Trent affair, the embargo on cattle, and the question of immigration, Canada's rights had been sacrificed. Britain sided with the big battalions and since 1830 there was not an instance where the Canadian interests were not sacrificed.

The Premier Heard.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that Bourassa's speech was out of place. "I am not," said Sir Wilfrid, "more than an admirer of British policy on the continent of America. I am sorry to say Canada in many cases has not got its just dues, but while I don't make any bones about my personal view of this question, still I hope we have not come to this that we want Great Britain to go to war with the United States. We want to preserve good relations with our friends and neighbors to the south, even if on some occasions our patience is sorely tried."

The premier went on to say that Mr. Bourassa would not expect Britain to act as Kruger did, and declare war against the United States. It was better to wait and see if a peaceable solution could not be obtained of a long pending question. Before the house prorogued he expected to be able to make a statement on the subject.

Mr. Gourley in a Fighting Mood.

Mr. Gourley (Colchester), while declaring that Mr. Bourassa had on many occasions stabbed him to the heart, in common with many right thinking loyal Britons agreed that the boundary question must be treated during this session in a substantial manner. "It is," he said,

"the most important subject that is today before the people. I am an imperialist after the strictest sect of the imperialists. There is enough loyalty and national feeling in this country to have carried us safely over those disastrous negotiations which we have always had with the United States, but we have always found ourselves in the position that the British government has sold out the interests of the people of Canada for what they supposed to be imperial interests. I say that it would have paid the empire a thousand times to have fought the question out, and I can say that as a Canadian, knowing well that the field of battle would be on Canadian soil, but sir, I will go into the trenches and take my wife and family with me and stay there for two years if need be to fight for the rights of Canada. I will stay in the trenches to fight the men who refuse to treat the people of Canada honestly. The day has gone by, I hope, when there is a cowardly Canadian on the soil of this country. The older men of the house may fear war but I think that the younger blood of this country are not frightened of war. I will face the problem of war tomorrow rather than feel my spirit crushed by cowardly concessions. The spirit of manhood is more to me than cowardly concessions for the sake of peace.

"From 1839 to the day of Fashoda we had nothing all over the world but a series of the most disastrous humiliations, and it got so that no true Englishman would dare take up his paper without fearing to read of a cowardly concession in some quarter of the world that would make him blush. Old Gladstone gave away the whole empire of Africa, we would have had every square mile if his government had not been cowards. It is time for this house to speak out. I claim that hereafter we in Canada will have as much right to discuss the foreign policy of England as have the men gathered in the House of Commons of England. What right have these people gathered about the steps of the throne to any more say than we have here in the discussion of the foreign policy of England?"

"I trust that in ten years the houses of commons of Africa, Australia and Canada will together control the little blockheads that sit in the great hall of St. Stephen's when they go wrong. I heard a story a few days ago explaining why it was that we had such stupidity in the commons of England. They say men are examined over there before they are nominated to see that incipient imbecility is thoroughly well established, and unless it is they cannot be elected. I claim for the House of Commons of Canada a more intelligent grasp of foreign affairs affecting the empire than they have in England today. What we want now is a full discussion in the house so that this ministry will know that the time has come when if they sacrifice one foot of Canadian soil we will hang them as high as Haman. If it is necessary to fight the Yankees we will fight them within twenty-four hours, and after six months we will capture

(Continued on Second Page.)

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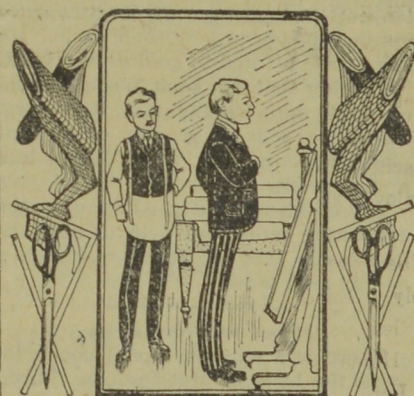
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