

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1916

LAURIER'S FIRST GREAT REFUSAL

Nothing had been done by Canada for Imperial Defence when the Imperial Conference of 1907 met. Then the question, after five years' postponement, came up for a practical discussion. All the Dominions and Colonies which then contributed were prepared to go as before, except that New Zealand again raised her allowance—this time from \$200,000 to \$500,000. Mr. Brodeur, then Minister of Marine in the Laurier Administration, offered nothing but reasons why Canada could not share the burden of Empire. The delegate from Cape Colony, Dr. Smarrt, desired to obtain a unanimous declaration of the whole conference approving of the principle of general co-operation in Imperial Defence. He moved the following resolution on the 9th day of May, 1907:

"That this Conference, recognizing the vast importance of the services rendered by the Navy to the defence of the Empire and the protection of its trade, and the paramount importance of continuing to maintain the Navy in the highest possible state of efficiency, considers it to be the duty of the Dominions beyond the seas to make such contribution toward the upkeep of the Navy, as may be determined by their respective local legislatures—the contribution to take the form of a grant of money, the establishment of local defence, or such other services in such manner as may be decided upon after consultation with the Admiralty, and as would best accord with their varying circumstances."

(Colonial Conference, 1907, p. 541, of the British Blue Book.)

This resolution was not passed, unanimously or otherwise. It was opposed on behalf of Canada by Sir Wilfrid Laurier who declared that if it were not withdrawn he would vote against it. His short speech deserves to be a part of the record. As reported in the British Blue Book (page 542) the then Premier of Canada said:

"I am sorry to say, so far as Canada is concerned, we cannot agree to the resolution. We took the ground many years ago that we had enough to do in our respect in our country before committing ourselves to a general claim. The Government of Canada has done a great deal in that respect. Our action was not understood, but I was glad to see that the First Lord of the Admiralty admitted we had done much more than he was aware of. It is impossible, in my humble opinion to have a uniform policy in this matter; the disproportion is too great between the Mother Country and the colonies, we had too much to do otherwise. In the Mother Country, you must remember, they have no expenses to incur with regard to public works; whereas in most of the colonies, certainly in Canada, we have to tax ourselves to the utmost of our resources in the development of our country, and we could not contribute or undertake to do more than we are doing in that way. For my part, if the motion were pressed to a conclusion, I should have to vote against it."

Representatives of the other Dominions urged Sir Wilfrid to propose or accept some modification from the motion approving of the principle of co-operation. Sir Joseph Ward of New Zealand, especially urged that an unanimous declaration of willingness to take part should be made, but the Canadian Premier still refused. To Dr. Smarrt, he replied: "I have said all I have to say on the subject," and to Sir Joseph Ward's insistence he would only reply: "I am sorry to say that this is a question upon which we could not be unanimous." "Dr. Smarrt can move it if he chooses, or withdraw it, but if he presses it I should have to vote against it." This killed the proposition, and Dr. Smarrt withdrew his motion, reluctantly admitting that Canada had blocked the way.

THE POTATO QUESTION

In yesterday's Guardian we published an excellent letter from Mr. James Hutt, Glengarry, Lot 7 on the Potato Crop. We are pleased to learn from Mr. Hutt that the loss from rot in the potato crop is much less than had at first been feared, the estimates having been made largely on the condition of the early varieties. One of the points which we wished to make in the editorial to which Mr. Hutt refers was the discrepancy between prices paid to farmers here and the

prices paid by the consumer in outside markets, such as in Quebec and Ontario centres. Mr. Hutt's explanation does not explain this. He says "farmers are rushing their potatoes to market to save labour of storing and re-picking, and dealers, when they can get all they can handle for 40 to 45 cents will certainly not pay more." Nor does his "proof of this" prove that the farmer is getting a legitimate price for his potatoes when he says: "In proof of this, if you will look up the market reports of this time last year, you will find that prices in St. John, Montreal and Toronto were not higher than now, and our Island potatoes were then bringing 65 cents, simply because they were a very light crop, and our farmers were unwilling to sell. Besides, if the white varieties are worth 40 cents per bushel more than red or blue, why are our dealers only paying 5 cents more per bushel for them?"

The Farmers Advocate of October 12th, just to hand, has the following to say on this question:

"If there were a High Cost of Living Commission gathering data how relative to the prices of human foodstuffs, they could obtain some valuable and interesting information regarding potatoes in Ontario and the Eastern Provinces. While the growers were receiving from sixty to sixty-five cents per bushel in Nova Scotia, 40 cents per bushel in Prince Edward Island and 65 cents per bushel in New Brunswick, consumers in Ontario and Quebec were paying as high as \$2.00 per bushel, and so firm was the market that growers in the vicinity of the larger centres quoted them at that price even though the buyer would carry them away himself. If the dealers and transportation companies should deduct the price to the farmers from the \$2.00 and divide the remainder between themselves, the hauling and distributing interests would each receive more per bushel than the grower who produced them. When it costs twice as much to distribute an article as it does to produce it, there is something radically wrong. We cannot divide this \$2.00, after Euclid's plan, into three equal parts, for the hauling charge from New Brunswick to points as far West as London, Ontario, ranges around 20 cents per 100 pounds, in carload lots, or about 12 cents per bushel. Thus the grower gets 65 cents and the railroads 12 cents, making a cost of 77 cents. Let us be liberal or even extravagant and allow the buyer and shipper in New Brunswick 23 cents per bushel, which is more than a just profit, so the product laid down in Ontario cities would be \$1.00 per bushel, and it would be less in Quebec on account of the shorter haul. There is still \$1.00 to be divided, and we must confess we do not know where it is going. The small wholesalers and jobbers give no evidence of becoming excessively rich, neither do the corner grocers or dealers. Someone, somewhere, working quietly and unostentatiously must have been receiving the lion's share of the \$1.00 which was divided amongst the distributors."

We reproduce elsewhere an interview with Capt. Joseph Read, Summerside, in the Agriculturist of the 14th. Captain Read is a member of one of the largest produce firms in the province and no doubt is thoroughly acquainted with the conditions of the potato market. The point he makes is this and is worth while emphasizing: that in the past, the farmers have not considered potatoes a staple crop; they have not given that attention to spraying and scientific production that they would have given had the markets been more accessible. Now however, as he shows, we are on the world's highway, thanks to the action of the Conservative Government. The Captain assures the farmers that they are now practically guaranteed a good substantial price for potatoes and that it will be well worth their while to devote as much careful attention to their cultivation as they are bestowing on their grain and dairy produce. There is one point on which Captain Read is at variance with the Guardian, that is, with regard to the market prices in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He states that "The Guardian ought to know that the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick farmers are getting no such prices out of the fields now as it quotes." Our comparisons were based on the market quotations then published. The prices now may be higher, they may be lower, but at the time they were actually correct and are substantiated by the excerpt given above from the Farmers' Advocate published subsequently to the appearance of our article.

NOTES

The other day it was the Fiji Islanders that were presenting the British Government with an aeroplane, and now word comes to hand that the people of the Seychelles have subscribed a sum of nearly \$2,000 to various relief organizations in the United Kingdom, says the Christian Science Monitor. The Seychelles, the curious archipelago of ninety islands in the Indian Ocean, making up not more than 156 square miles altogether, were colonized by the French in 1742, but were ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1814.

HUN IRRECONCILABLES AFTER SCALP OF DR. HEFFERICH.

BERLIN, Oct. 17.—A largely attended meeting of "the independent committee for German peace," one of the organizations conducting an agitation for a ruthless submarine warfare, was held here yesterday. Deputy Furhmann, national Liberal leader in the Prussian Diet, acted as chair man.

According to the Tageblatt's report, the meeting insisted that an unrestricted submarine war must and should begin immediately. Count von Runtow, editorial writer on the Tages Zeitung, who was one of the prominent speakers, added Dr. Karl Hefferich, secretary of the interior, to

the list of undesirables. He declared that Dr. Hefferich was more dangerous than the Imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg.

"STRUCK OIL"

If every man who washed his own pants discovered a good mine there would be a slump in washerwomen. But that is how the largest nugget ever found in California was turned out.

It was a young Indian who was washing his clothes in a certain stream when this big lump of fortune came his way. Who will say now that virtuous cleanliness for choice—does not bring its own reward?

The California Eldorado, to which

all the world rushed with one accord, was first spotted by a man who went out early one morning to dig onions with a sheath-knife, and found gold adhering to the blade.

Talking of sheath-knives, they were the favorite means of flickering out gold in the old Bendigo days. The diggers used three knives for many things, and wore them in their belts. They used to dig in their "claims," flickering out bits of gold with the point.

Imagine taking thirty-two pounds weight of gold out of a hole in the earth before breakfast! Yet such an experience was common enough.

And a good mine in New Zealand was discovered by a man who picked up a stone to throw at a wood-pigeon!

A BOURASSA LAURIER ALLIANCE

The people of Canada are entitled to warning against an amazingly audacious game of deception being played by the Liberal-Nationalist forces in the Province of Quebec.

There is reason to believe, and in due time the truth will be forthcoming, that a secret alliance exists between Henri Bourassa and the Liberal party leaders to secure the return of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to office and the restoration of Quebec Nationalist influence in Ottawa.

In order to make this alliance as effective as possible, and at the same time to conceal its existence and aim from the public, there is being practised a clever and dangerous game. This game takes the form of attacks on Sir Wilfrid Laurier by Henri Bourassa in the Province of Quebec to aid Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the Province of Ontario.

There can be no doubt that there is a Bourassa-Laurier alliance. Mr. Bourassa has pledged himself to render the most effective indirect aid within his power to return Sir Wilfrid to office.

Where is Sir Wilfrid Laurier most in need of aid?

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

How can Henri Bourassa assist Laurier in Ontario?

By make-believe abuse of Laurier in Quebec as an Imperialist and a friend of England.

Every time Bourassa thus attacks Laurier as an Imperialist in Quebec the Toronto Globe cites the "attack" as a reason why Laurier should be elected in Ontario.

It is the old, old Michaevevian game, played by Laurier for forty years, resurrected in a new and more unsuspecting role.

For example, Bourassa "attacked" Laurier on Sunday as being Imperialist. On Monday the Globe carried a column long editorial calling upon Ontario to support Laurier because Bourassa assailed him.

Yet on the very day that Bourassa was making his fake attack on Laurier, Bourassa's chief lieutenant, Armand Lavergne, was speaking in support of the man who inspired the original resolution which Sir Wilfrid Laurier fathered. His close association with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Armand Lavergne, at one and the same time, and his recent anti-British utterances, would seem to indicate a surrender of Quebec Liberals to the official Nationalist leaders as the price of Bourassa's effective if cleverly concealed support.

In the recent Quebec provincial elections Nationalists appeared on every Liberal platform. The alliance of the two parties was publicly announced. The price of Nationalist support of the Liberals in that election was Liberal support of the Billings resolution at Ottawa. Sir Wilfrid Laurier paid the price—was willing to pay it at the cost of his own leadership—and out of the concubence of the two parties there has emerged the present Laurier-Bourassa entente.

The people of Canada, and especially the people of Ontario, need to guard against the sinister combination. No "attack" that can ever be conceived by Henri Bourassa can efface the anti-British record of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not an Imperialist when he opposed Confederation. He was not an Imperialist when he endorsed and condoned the rebellion of Louis Riel.

He was not an Imperialist when he stood for commercial union with the United States and its peril of annexation.

He was not an Imperialist when in Boston, in 1891, he advocated separation from Britain.

He was not an Imperialist when he attempted to block and did delay Canada's assistance to the Empire in the South African war.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

WITHOUT MOTHER

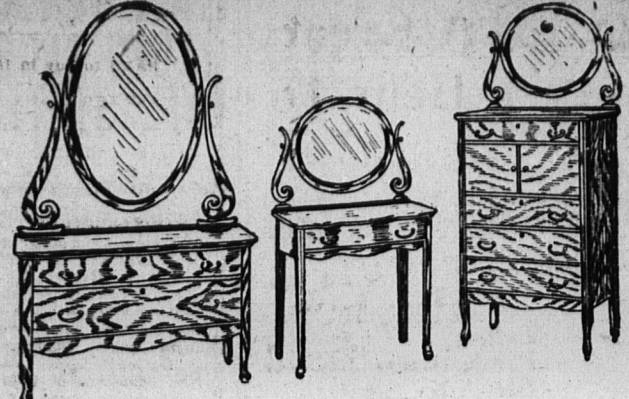
Marie Galbraith.

It's awful lonesome at our house
"Thout Mother;
It's just as quiet as a mouse
"Thout Mother.
And Father looks so lonely there
Of course, sitting in his chair;
It just ain't cheerful anywhere
"Thout Mother!

It's awful hard to get along
It seems that everything goes wrong
"Thout Mother.
'Course, Father does the best he can;
But then, you know, he's just a man,
An' don't know how to fix an' plan.
Like Mother.

Seems like I don't enjoy my play
"Thout Mother;
Things just get worse every day
"Thout Mother!
There's no one now to mend my doll,
Nobody's sorry when I fall—
Oh, home just ain't no place at all
"Thout Mother!

But Father says we must be brave
"Thout Mother;
'Cause him an' me, we only have
One 'nother.
An' if we're brave, an' strong an' true,
An' good, just like she told us to,
We'll go up home, when life is through
To Mother.



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He was not an Imperialist when he opposed Canadian naval aid to the Empire in 1902 and 1907.

He was not an Imperialist when he sought to sacrifice Canadian fiscal independence in 1911.

He was not an Imperialist when in the House of Commons a few months before the war he eulogized the Kaiser as a bulwark of peace and a great moral force.

He was not an Imperialist when he fought and killed the Naval Aid Bill in 1912; and encouraged Germany to precipitate this terrible conflict.

He is not an Imperialist today.

We know that the great majority of the Liberal party are as devoted to Canada and as loyal to the Empire as are the rest of Canadians. We know that there are thousands of Liberals in uniform and that the war has brought mourning to thousands of Liberal homes.

But the time has arrived for plain speaking; and overpowering events in the recent months have amply shown that the separatists, the anti-Imperialists, the little Canadians, the reactionaries and the Canadian sectionalists are behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Liberal party today is grossly misrepresented by its leaders. It is completely in the power and under the influence of Nationalist Quebec.

In office Sir Wilfrid would be the Laurier of old. Closely allied as he is with the Nationalists he would govern Canada according to their whims and at their dictation.

When the next election comes, Canadians must remember:—A vote for Laurier is a vote for Bourassa.

PRICE OF COAL HAS ADVANCED IN HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, October 16.—The price of all grades of coal have advanced in price to the Halifax consumer, and the reason given for it is that the price has taken another jump at the mine. The increase in the price of coal was not altogether unexpected, although it was not thought by some dealers that it would be so soon. Soft coal is now selling at seven dollars per ton cash, against \$6.50 for cash last week. Hard coal, too, has taken a jump and is now selling at \$10.50 per ton, an advance of twenty-five cents per ton.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

An interesting and pleasing event took place at Melville, Lot 69, on Sept. 21st, when Mr. and Mrs. John D. McLeod celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. In the afternoon from 3 o'clock to 6, guests of their own generation to the number of thirty were entertained. A splendid dinner, and violin selections by Mr. George McKenzie one of the old-time fiddlers—being features of the entertainment. At 7 p. m. about sixty of middle-aged and young people gathered, and after greeting the bride and groom of fifty years ago, proceeded to have a good time. An almost forgotten feature of enter-

tainment, "Gaelic Songs," was indulged in, and was enjoyed by all. Mr. John M. McKenzie, Mr. William M. McKenzie and Mr. William A. McQueen, our genial returned soldier and D. C. M., were the songsters. The choruses were joined in by all who could. The keeping time with hand clapping hand in a circle brought back memories of the "Good old times."

Gramophone selections and Bag pipe music by Mr. William A. McQueen, helped to pass the time very pleasantly. Refreshments were served during the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. McLeod were remembered by their own family friends in a suitable presentation of gifts. The members of their family that enjoyed the pleasure of being home with their parents at their Golden Wedding were:—Mrs. Ronald McRae, Point Prim; Mrs. Flora McKinnon, Charlottetown; Mrs. D. W. Morrison, Plymouth, Mass.; Miss Hannah B., teacher at Melville, and Campbell Station Agent at Melville. Three sons Daniel, Murdoch and William residing abroad were unable to be present.

The place was prettily decorated for the occasion, with autumn foliage and golden rod collected by the school children.

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LIST NO. 48.

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B. W. Tanton, Summerside \$25;

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Total subscriptions from public to date \$38,711.30.

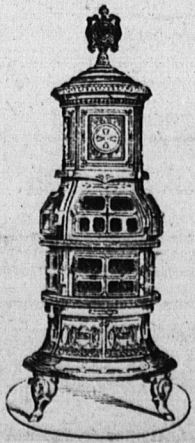
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