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"FAR-SEING SIR WILFRED!"

In yesterday's issue the Patriot says: "Had we the units of the fleet, as proposed by Sir Wilfrid, which would now be in active service, all the important ports of Canada would be well guarded by our own ships and some of them might be in the North strengthening the fleets of Great Britain. What a far-seeing statesman Sir Wilfrid Laurier is!"

Well may our Contemporary mark this sentiment by a point of exclamation. "Far-seeing," indeed! Why in the House of Commons on December 12, 1912, Sir Wilfrid argued that "THERE IS NO EMERGENCY, THAT ENGLAND IS IN NO DANGER, WHETHER IMMINENT OR PROSPECTIVE."

That is the foresight of which the Patriot has now the audacity to boast and the intrepidity to resurrect at a time when the Empire is in the throes of a life and death struggle. Compare Sir Wilfrid's shortsightedness with the calm, judicial forecast submitted by Sir Robert Borden in the same debate. "Do Canadians sufficiently realize the disparity between the naval risks of our Empire and those of any other nation?" asked Sir Robert. "The armies of Continental Europe number their men by the million, not by the thousand; they are highly equipped and organized. The whole populations have undergone military training and any one of these countries is absolutely secure against invasion from Great Britain, which could not send an expeditionary force of more than 150,000 men at the highest estimate. Such a force would be outnumbered, twenty to one, by any of the great European Powers. This Empire is not a great military Power and it has based its security in the past as in the present, almost entirely on the strength of the Navy. A crushing defeat upon the High Seas would render the British Isles or any of the Dominions subject to invasion by any great military Power. The loss of such a decisive battle by Great Britain would practically destroy the United Kingdom, shatter the British Empire to its foundation, and change profoundly the destiny of its component parts."

These are verities which the Patriot or Sir Wilfrid or any other body dare not in the present exigency attempt to refute or cavil at. What possible benefit, then, to Canada or the Empire could Sir Wilfrid's policy have been? Let Sir George Foster's reply to Sir Wilfrid supply the answer.

"You make your fleet construction, tediously and lengthily, extending certainly over a period of six or seven years, finding it impossible sooner to obtain Canadian seamen to man it, because you have to train men as well as get them. In the event of such a contingency, and if the day of Armageddon came and caught us napping, I would like to have the consciousness that I am free from the remorse which would lie heavily upon me if I had been party to or contributed in that fatal delay."

The "Armageddon" has come, and, thanks to Sir Wilfrid, caught us napping. Has Sir Wilfrid any "remorse" for the delay he and his party contributed? He prates of loyalty now; but loyalty now cannot undo the wrong his "neutrality policy" did two years ago. Why, then, should the Patriot seek to rehabilitate him as a "far-seeing statesman," while these facts are only too readily called to mind?

SACRIFICE

"All that we have and are" we owe to sacrifice. To the sacrifice made by our forefathers we owe the peace-blessed land we live in and the flag that flies over it to keep it in peace. And we preach this sacrifice to our people. We speak of it as the inspiration to nobler effort, to a cleaner nationhood, to continued liberty. Our fathers paid for liberty, theirs and ours, in blood and sacrifice. And today we, whose liberty they paid for, are being asked to make sacrifices in order that the blessings we have inherited may be handed on to future generations.

And our people are willing to pay the price. Many of them have offered themselves to be sacrificed, if need be; others have made the greater sacrifice in offering their sons, their husbands, their brothers. And those to whom this, the extreme sacrifice was impossible, have given of their money, their goods, their time. As a province we congratulate ourselves that we have responded fairly well to the call. The aggregate of our giving, in men, money, food and clothing, will, we believe, equal, proportionately to our population and to our means, that of any other province in Canada or in the Empire.

And yet whether in peace-blessed or war-cursed land, there are those who will refuse to make any sacrifice, those who will shelter themselves under the sacrifice made by others. This is the side of the sacrifice problem that men stagger at and that neither philosophy nor theology can satisfactorily solve. The generous, whole-souled men and women, who by their sacrifices have saved the Empire in many a time of peril, to whom we owe all that we have and are, have also saved—with the Empire—the parasites who are content to be parasites, vermin on the body politic.

We believe our province is as free from these as any country under the sun, but we have them. While "widows' mites" are not wanting, while many are giving of their poverty, while the majority are giving generously, we have a few moneyed men who have given so little that even their friends are ashamed of them, a few well off farmers who have donated three or four bushels of oats to save the Empire!

One would almost wish that a German cruiser might some day enter one of our harbors and, with the subscription list to the different patriotic funds as a guide, pay a visit to some of these and in their own inimitable way levy a toll on them. What a howl there would be! What a scurrying to the Provincial Offices to demand compensation of the government! And what a lesson in the saving of an Empire!

WILL ENGLAND STAND IT?

How is England equipped to stand the strain of war? Is the empire powerful enough financially and industrially, to endure through the struggle? Can the British of 1914 bear battle as did the British of 1814? Ferris, the author of an industrial history of England, believes that, if England can keep command of the seas, the reply to each inquiry must be in the affirmative.

Mr. Ferris has given intense thought and minute and keen investigation to his subject. His conclusion is that England today is as superior materially to England a century ago as the latest dreadnought is to the warships of Nelson.

The author wrote the preface of his work last May. He affirmed that "the nation which had had the strength to pass this test of the march of industrialism in the nineteenth century will face without fear the worst that the future can reveal. England, if she has no monopoly of the means to wealth, holds her moral primacy."

From victory amid the smoke of Waterloo England turned to new victories amid the smoke of engines.

CAN GERMANY STAND IT?

To finance the war the German Government have asked the country to subscribe for one milliard of marks (£50,000,000) \$250,000,000, of Treasury bills and an Imperial War Loan of unlimited amount, both to bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. It is rightly recognized that these loans must be raised in Germany itself, for under present conditions "no financial assistance worth mentioning is to be expected from neutral countries." Wealthy Germans, however, ought to rejoice in the exclusion of competitors, for the price which appeals to them to sustain the credit of the Fatherland gives them this comforting assurance:—"The victories which our glorious armies have already won in the west and east justify the hope that just as in 1870-71, the expenses and burdens of the war will again finally fall upon those who have disturbed the peace of the German Empire."

This is a very interesting illustration of press-manipulation, for on the very day that fervent appeals, based on allegations of victory, were being made to the German public—September 11—it must have been known officially in Berlin that the right of the German army in France had been driven back in considerable disorder. And before many days have passed we suspect that rumours of an irretrievable disaster in France will have eluded official vigilance and become the common gossip of an alarmed nation. What in such circumstances may be the fate of the War Loan we need not inquire. When tidings of defeat—perhaps of overwhelming disaster—cross the frontier anything is possible in the way of popular reaction. The crowd may pass from the extreme of confidence to the extreme of despair, and a tottering economic structure may fall into ruin, bringing down with it the entire political edifice. For a Germany marching to victory the unemployed millions might be willing to suffer quietly, hoping for the triumphant re-entry of Peace, seated on the War Lord's bayonets and scattering largesse to right and left. But will they starve submissively for a Germany stricken, impoverished, incapable of more than the protracted defence of a losing cause?

STRENGTH IN AIRCRAFT

The comparative strength of the various nations in aircraft is the subject of an article in the current number of the American Review of Reviews. The estimated strength of the warring countries in this branch is set forth as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Country, Dirigibles, Aeroplanes. France: 31, 1200. Great Britain: 15, 500. Russia: 16, 800. Belgium: 2, 40. Serbia: 0, 40. Germany: 35, 600. Austria: 10, 350.

It will be seen from these figures, the authority for which is Henry Woodhouse, the editor of Flying, that the Allies in craft of the air are considerably stronger than Germany and Austria combined. It is to be remembered that the respective governments are increasing the number of these flying machines and balloons as rapidly as possible at the present time. This is very necessary, as the strongest of them are frail and the hard usage of war is calculated to play havoc with their delicate parts.

RECRUITING IN BRITAIN

The spirit which permeates the United Kingdom at present is forcefully told by a writer in one of our English exchanges. After dealing with the call for more men he continues: "Mr. Asquith went on the stump for more men. Bonar Law went on the stump for more men. More than that, they went on the stump together. This, I think, was the turning point in the campaign for more men. Before this happened, it looked as if the nation would be compelled, however unwillingly, to have recourse to conscription. But in little more than a week two hundred thousand stepped into the ranks. At the moment of writing the new armies are over three hundred thousand strong. And all this in spite of the continued dearth of news from the front, especially about our own part in it."

"It is an inspiration to go to one of these meetings for encouraging enlistment. The platform is crowded with erstwhile hostile politicians, the hall is packed to the doors with all sorts and conditions of men and women, all throbbing responsive, in one way or another, to this cry which is going up and down the land, wave on wave, for more men. Last night I stood in such a mass of people, and listened to an old party stalwart saying amid thunders of applause that party lines were obliterated in face of the national danger and as long as that danger lasted the country knew neither Unionists nor Liberal, tariff-reformer nor free-trader, home-ruler nor anti-home ruler. "We are one," said the speaker. Round the walls of the hall were hung large placards intimating that recruiting officers were in the room adjoining, and these officers were kept busy, I can tell you. Among the numerous lies circulated by the Germans none was more frequent than that Lord Kitchener could not get more men. Thus, it was stated that in a city of nearly a million population only a hundred men had answered his call. It is enough to say that in Glasgow, which may be taken as a city of the population named, more than 25,000 men have joined the colors, and more are coming forward every hour.

NOTES

A stalwart recruit joined the colours at Kilmarnock the other day. Seven of his brothers had already enlisted, and as he left the recruiting office he was overheard explaining—"It's a family affair noo, this war. We're a' in it."

The Russian troops almost wept when they marched into the peasant villages of Galicia, the place and people reminding them so much of home. Now that the Czar has proclaimed the province part of his dominions they are entitled to refer to it as "our country."

INTERESTING EXTRACTS FROM PRIVATE LETTER

Mr. Adrian Lumley, of London, England, who visited the province this summer, returning to England about the time of the outbreak of the war, has written a letter to Mr. W.E. Cameron, Charlottetown, from which the Guardian is kindly permitted to give the following interesting extracts.

"I was very much struck, when I got back to England, with the extraordinary organization that had sprung up everywhere. There is no doubt that for a long time plans had been carefully prepared to deal with practically every eventuality that might arise."

"The Government has taken over the railways, controlled the newspapers, absorbed a large part of the merchant service for troop ship purposes, and has attacked the financial position with great ability. There is also an organization of special Constabulary to guard waterworks, railways, bridges, electric lighting stations and other public places."

"Recruiting for the new army has exceeded all expectations, and at the present moment we have over 500,000 recruits in training. Certainly before the end of the year we shall have a million men under arms apart from those on the continent, and apart from the recruits that will still be coming in."

"The proclaiming of the Moratorium quickly saved a panic, and before another two months has elapsed I anticipate that most of the credit machinery will be at work again. The problem is to deal with the trade bills that we hold against foreign countries, but as Lloyd George says, this is a balance on the right side, for it is not a liability to us to them."

"I anticipate that the Moratorium will be a good deal at work again. The problem is to deal with the trade bills that we hold against foreign countries, but as Lloyd George says, this is a balance on the right side, for it is not a liability to us to them. I anticipate that the Moratorium will be a good deal at work again. The problem is to deal with the trade bills that we hold against foreign countries, but as Lloyd George says, this is a balance on the right side, for it is not a liability to us to them."

"With regard to the second method of making good, we have started a number of big housing schemes by means of loans to municipalities from the Government."

"Generally I am quite confident that this country is in a better position to weather the storm economically and morally than Germany."

"The rally of the colonies and India to Britain is producing a magnificent effect here. The gifts made by the Canadian Provinces, the stories of the enthusiasm which come to us, and the men themselves make us feel very safe and happy."

"It is quite on the cards that the Germans will try a Zeppelin attack on London. We are ready for them. None of the big arc-lights in the main streets are lighted at night, and at various parts of the centre there are search lights at work at night. I understand that high places in the suburbs have special airship guns mounted on them. There are a couple of airship guns mounted \* \* \* \* \*

"The outstanding feature of the situation now, is the extraordinary victory they have won and are winning every day through the ability of the Navy to keep open our trade routes and to seal those of the enemy. It is this fact that must turn the scale in our favor. With our trade routes kept open we can not only feed ourselves but France and Belgium also."

"The position is very wonderful and at the same time very terrible. Here is civilized Europe, having attained certain definite progress, hard at work smashing it up. Having bred and educated numerous children we are now busily engaged in setting them to slaughter each other. It is utterly stupid. But what is to be done? Those people who preach peace on sentimental grounds alone, are answered by the militarist, of the German school especially, who alleges the enabling and race improving effects of warfare. Norman Angell in "The Great Illusion" answered this argument quite conclusively. He says that the militarist has gone mad, but still the love of power, the "dominium" as the Romans called it, the absolute control of the bodies and souls of people by an Autocratic clique."

"The fight from our side is in every respect an effort to maintain freedom. It is the greatest struggle for liberty that the world has known. It seems to me that the United States must come into it, if not actually by arms she must put the squeeze on to Germany economically in every way she can."

"While Germany is at war she should be excluded from credit and supplies by other nations. I believe you in Canada could do much individually to influence the opinion in the United States. There is not a shadow of a doubt about the justice of our cause."

"My voyage home was the most uncomfortable journey I have yet made. She is a bad ship and every body's nerves were on edge. The wireless was giving out all sorts of rumors. One day we saw a warship, she turned round and had a look at us, but evidently knew us and continued her course westward. She would not answer our wireless, she obviously was a British ship."

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OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.) LONDON, Sept. 25.—The past week has brought a great blow to the nation in the form of a naval disaster, the significance of which lay not in the three old cruisers that were torpedoed, but in the loss of brave bluejackets. As, however, the nation has steeled itself to take a few inevitable blows while dealing some at the enemy, this one advantage gained by our opponents is not taken seriously to heart so far as the campaign is concerned.

This is the first European conflict in which the submarine method of warfare has been tried. It has never been much favored by the British Admiralty as striking below the belt is repugnant to our traditions of fighting, but the Germans have given the submarine a very prominent place in their naval programme. So that while their big cruisers are hiding in harbor at Cushing and in the Kiel Canal, the sinuous torpedoes are managing here and there to supplement the still more abominable submarine method of destruction. Our cruisers have been destroyed because they were doing for Britain and the Empire what the German fleet cannot do, namely, keeping open the North Sea for Maritime commerce. In keeping open our trade routes and in guarding our shores from invasion, our fleet is rendering good service of which we do not hear much until a reverse or a brush-up occurs.

Although this is only the eighth week of the war, the Germans have managed to pile up a record of infamy which bids fair to make Kaiser Wilhelm II. earn the title of Attila II. The civilized world was shocked on Monday to learn that Rheims Cathedral, one of the most venerable and historic monuments of sanctuaries in Christendom, had been destroyed by the enemy. The dastardly nature of this offence against civilization in deliberately attacking a church, was increased by the fact that a Red Cross flag was flying over the Cathedral, as German wounded were being cared for within one section of it. To many of us Rheims is familiar through an old poem which is the story of a curse, and it will be interesting to see if the Pope's message of rebuke to the Kaiser—which is as near a curse as is conceivable with a message to a non-Catholic—will operate.

On the field of battle in Northern France the struggle for several days past has been one which has shown little marked result, though there is every reason to believe that it is a tug-of-war which will result in one pull or the other will topple over the enemy. The "Times" commenting on the present position says: "Looking at the battle of the Oise as a whole, we should say that the German resort to mole warfare can hardly be sustained very much longer. They have made a good stand, longer than was expected, but the mole is always evicted in the end."

No clearer proof of what the war has done to produce harmony among warring politicians of a few months ago, has been afforded than the very general favorable comment on Lloyd George's speech in Queen's Hall before an audience of Welshmen. In his clear, terse and colloquial style, in his Chancery of the Exchequer brought out some very apt phrases which will stick, such for instance, as "the road-hog of Europe"—his epithet for the Kaiser. This utterance was appreciated in as much as Lloyd George—of all the members of the Cabinet—stands for the democratic element, the free-churchman, as well as for the Principality of Wales. The Chancellor's two sons, Mr. Richard Lloyd George and Mr. Gwilyn Lloyd George, have both been gazetted second Lieutenants in Welsh Territorial regiments.

With the expectation that a section of the Canadian Continent will shortly be here—if not already landed—preparations are in hand for the opening of the Queen's Canadian Military Hospital at Folkestone, and also for the establishment of an official record office under the supervision of the Acting High Commissioner in London, which will keep detailed information about the men who come over. The hospital is being provided by the Canadian War Contingent Association which was formed several weeks ago among the Canadian community in London, but it will be open to receive any wounded soldier in the Imperial forces, though Canadians will, if convenient, be given the preference. Sir Arthur Markham, M. P. and Lady Markham, have very kindly placed a large country house at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, at the disposal of the Association and it is this house that is being fitted up with fifty beds under Sir Wm. Osler and Dr. Donald Arnour. The Association negotiated at first for a private hospital in Westminster, but the terms of the proprietors were not acceptable and this scheme was therefore dropped. Fortunately, however, the offer of Sir Arthur Markham enabled the committee to go ahead, and it is expected that the hospital will be opened next week.

Mr. Harrison Watson, Agent-General for Prince Edward Island, referring to the province's gift of 100,000 bushels of oats, said: "Prince Edward Island has responded generously to the call of patriotism. It must be remembered that it is the smallest province in Canada; indeed, it is sometimes called Canada's one-million acre farm. Oats is the biggest crop in the Island, so it is natural that the gift should take this form. I understand that the Island intends also to send some cheese and hay—these products being also representative of the Island, which is almost entirely an agricultural community. Fox farming is a comparatively new industry in the province, but from all accounts it bids fair to be very successful. Prince Edward Island is doing its share of military duty. It has sent 140 men to guard the mines at Sydney and the cable at Canso and a field ambulance corps of 70 men to Quebec to serve as a permanent hospital until further orders. There are, I believe, some fifty men from the province in the camp at Valcartier, and the ladies of the Island have collected about \$4,500 towards the Canadian hospital ship."

This statement was made to the Weekly Canadian Gazette published in London. CAEDMON.

PORTUGAL'S COURSE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 6.—At the Spanish embassy here it was said today that Portugal's course would in no way affect Spanish neutrality.

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