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IS THIS A "FAKE"?

It will have been seen from what we had to say yesterday that Germany received with the utmost satisfaction the decision of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's henchmen in the Senate, to turn down Sir Robert Borden's proposal of naval assistance. It will be now in order to quote the authority on which Sir Robert Borden acted. It is to be found in a communication from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Hon. L. Harcourt, to His Royal Highness the Governor General, and is in the following terms:—

"Downing St., 25th Oct., 1912.

"Sir,—I have the honour to transmit to Your Royal Highness the accompanying copy of a memorandum relating to the REQUIREMENTS of the Naval Defence of the Empire.

"2. This document has been prepared by the Admiralty ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT in compliance with the request of Mr. Borden with a view to presentation to the Dominion Parliament if, and when, the Dominion Ministers deem it necessary."

The Patriot claims that Sir Robert Borden "faked" the emergency requirements of 1912. Here is first hand evidence that Sir Robert acted in conjunction with Mr. Asquith's Government, and it follows if Sir Robert is a "faker" so also are Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Lewis Harcourt. Would not our readers rather be "fakers" in such good company than "neutrals" in the company of the Patriot, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his Senator henchmen?

"What were the terms of this all-important memorandum which Sir Wilfrid treated with the contempt of a "scrap of paper"?"

Here they are, and we are sure the re-reading of them will bring a flush of shame to the face of many when they recall how, in the name of Canada, the Senate retorted "to blazes with you and your REQUIREMENTS for naval defence! They are a fake!"

"1. The Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada has invited His Majesty's Government through the Board of Admiralty to prepare a statement of the present and immediately prospective requirements of the naval defence of the Empire for presentation to the Canadian Parliament if the Dominion Cabinet deem it necessary.

"The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are prepared to comply and to supplement, in a form which can be made public, the confidential communications and conversations which have passed between the Admiralty and Ministers of the Dominion Parliament during the recent visit to the United Kingdom.

"The Admiralty set the greatest store by the important material and still more important moral assistance which it is within the power of Canada to give to maintaining British Naval supremacy on the high seas, but they think it necessary to disclaim any intention, however indirect, of putting pressure upon Canadian public opinion, or of seeking to influence the Dominion Parliament in a decision which clearly belongs solely to Canada.

"The Admiralty therefore confine themselves in this statement exclusively to facts, and it is for the Dominion Government and Parliament to draw their own conclusions therefrom.

"2. The power of the British Empire to maintain the superiority on the sea, which is essential to its security, must obviously be measured from time to time by reference to the other naval forces of the world, and such a comparison does not imply anything unfriendly in intention or in spirit to any other Power or group of Powers. From this point of view the development of the German Fleet during the last fifteen years is the most striking feature of the naval situation today. That development has been authorized by five successive legislative enactments, viz., the Fleet Laws of 1898, 1900, 1906, 1908 and 1912. These laws cover the period up to 1920.

"Whereas in 1898 the German Fleet consisted of:—
9 battleships (excluding coast defence vessels),
3 large cruisers,
28 small cruisers,
113 torpedo boats, and 25,000 men.
maintained at an annual cost of 6,000,000l., the full Fleet of 1920 will consist of:—
41 battleships,
20 large cruisers,
40 small cruisers,
144 torpedo boats,
72 submarines and 101,500 men.

estimated to be maintained at an annual cost of 23,000,000l. These figures, however, give no real idea of the advance, for the size and cost of ships has risen continually during the period, and, apart from increasing their total numbers, Germany has systematically replaced old and small ships, which counted as units in her earlier Fleet, by the most powerful and costly modern vessels. Neither does the money provided by the estimates for the completed law, represent the increase in cost properly attributed to the German Navy, for many charges borne on British naval funds are otherwise defrayed in Germany; and the German Navy comprises such a large proportion of new ships that the cost of maintenance and repair is considerably less than in navies which have been longer established.

"3. The naval expansion of Germany has not been provoked by British naval increases. The German Government have repeatedly declared that their naval policy has not been influenced by British action, and the following figures speak for themselves:—

In 1905 Great Britain was building 4 capital ships, and Germany 2.

In 1906 Great Britain reduced to 3 capital ships, and Germany increased to 3.

In 1907 Great Britain built 3 capital ships and Germany built 3.

In 1908 Great Britain further reduced to 2 capital ships, and Germany further increased to 4.

"It was not until the efforts of Great Britain to procure the abatement or retardation of naval rivalry had failed for 3 successive years that the ADMIRALTY WERE FORCED IN 1909, UPON A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE NAVAL SITUATION, to ask Parliament to take exceptional measures to secure against all possible hazards the safety of the Empire. In that year, 8 capital ships were laid down in Great Britain, and 2 others were provided by the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand respectively—a total of 10.

"4. In the spring of the present year, the fifth German Navy Law was assented to by the Reichstag. The main feature of that law is not the increase in the new construction of capital ships, though that is important, but rather THE INCREASE IN THE STRIKING FORCE OF SHIPS OF ALL CLASSES which will be immediately available at all seasons of the year.

"The new construction under the law prescribes the building of 3 additional battleships—1 to be begun next year, 1 in 1916—and 2 small cruisers, of which the date has not yet been fixed. The date of the third battleship has not been fixed. It has been presumed to be later than the six years which are in view. The cost of these increases in men and in material is estimated as 10,500,000l., spread over that period above the previous estimates.

"The facts set forth above were laid before the House of Commons on the 22nd July, 1912, by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

"5. The effect of the new German Navy Law is to produce a remarkable expansion of strength and readiness. The number of battleships and large armoured cruisers which WILL BE KEPT CONSTANTLY READY AND IN FULL COMMISSION will be raised by the law from 21, the present figure, to 33—an addition of 12, or an increase of about 57 per cent.

"This great fleet is not dispersed all over the world for duties of commerce protection or in discharge of Colonial responsibilities; nor are its composition and character adapted to those purposes. IT IS CONCENTRATED AND KEPT CONCENTRATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE GERMAN AND BRITISH COASTS.

"Whereas, in the present year, (1912), Great Britain possesses 18 battleships and battle cruisers of the Dreadnought class against 19 of that class possessed by the other Powers of Europe, and will possess in 1913 24 to 21, the figures in 1914 will be 31 to 33; and in the year 1915, 35 to 51.

"The existence of a number of navies all comprising ships of high quality must be considered in so far as it affects the possibilities of adverse combinations being suddenly formed. Larger margins of superiority at Home would, among other things, restore a greater freedom to the movements of the British Squadrons in every sea, and directly promote the security of the Dominions.

"ANYTHING WHICH INCREASES OUR MARGIN IN THE NEWEST SHIPS DIMINISHES THE STRAIN AND AUGMENTS OUR SECURITY AND OUR CHANCES OF BEING LEFT UNMOLESTED.

"6. WHATEVER may be the decision of CANADA at the present juncture, GREAT BRITAIN WILL NOT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES FAIL IN HER DUTY TO THE OVERSEA DOMINIONS OF THE CROWN.

"She has before now successfully made head alone and unaided against the most formidable combinations and she has not lost her capacity by a wise policy and strenuous exertions to watch over and preserve the vital interests of the Empire.

The Admiralty are assured that His Majesty's Government will not hesitate to ask the House of Commons for whatever provision the circumstances of each year may require. BUT THE AID WHICH CANADA COULD GIVE AT THE PRESENT TIME IS NOT TO BE MEASURED ONLY IN SHIPS OR MONEY. Any action on the part of Canada to increase the power and mobility of the Imperial Navy, and thus widen the margin of our common safety, WOULD BE RECOGNIZED EVERYWHERE AS A MOST SIGNIFICANT WITNESS TO THE UNITED STRENGTH OF THE EMPIRE, and to the renewed resolve of the Overseas Dominions to take their part in maintaining its integrity.

10. The Prime Minister of the Dominion having enquired in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective, WE HAVE NO HESITATION IN ANSWERING AFTER A PROLONGED CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT IT IS DESIRABLE THAT SUCH AID SHOULD INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE LARGEST AND STRONGEST SHIPS OF WAR WHICH SCIENCE CAN BUILD OR MONEY SUPPLY."

Now in view of these statements of FACTS by British statesmen, who prefer war to the breaking of their pledge, will the Patriot still maintain that Sir Robert Borden "faked" the emergency—in conjunction with the British Government?

AT A GOOD DRUGSTORE

Some women visit a drug store only on compulsion—when a prescription must be filled, or a sick room requisite purchased. Other women, perhaps wiser, include the drug store visit in about every shopping trip. For they find that the modern drugstore is a very interesting place, filled with things of utility and beauty; and often offering rare "bargains" in the very articles sought.

The drug store would be still more widely popular with the ladies if it had always been adequately advertised—so that they might have gotten used to the idea of buying there the things in which it specializes.

But the druggist, while gradually growing in importance as a "merchant," has been too modest, too self-effacing, in his advertising. Heretofore, with some notable exceptions he has advertised but sparingly and rather timidly. He is outgrowing this habit. You will become convinced of this if you will read carefully the "advertisements" of druggists in this issue, and in other issues of the Guardian to come. You will find that the druggist is rightly aligning himself with the other progressive merchants who seek your trade, and that he is advertising informally, interestingly and effectively.

Get acquainted with the drug store whose "advertisements" interest you—and you will find that the store itself interests you still more.

NOTES

The Federal Department of Agriculture is carrying on a patriotic campaign for increased production of food supplies throughout Canada, and are inviting the co-operation of all the Provincial Departments. In Prince Edward Island an attempt is being made to enlist the services of the clergymen and other public speakers, and already a number of requests have been made for facts concerning the war and the necessity of an increased production of food supplies. The Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has printed an Agricultural War Book, which was not intended, however, for general distribution, and it will be a considerable time before a sufficient number can be on hand to provide all those who are likely to take part in the campaign in Prince Edward Island, with one. On this account the Magazine Guardian, which is issued every Saturday, contains some articles on the war which will be of interest not only to speakers but to every thinking man and woman on Prince Edward Island.

FROM SALISBURY

The following letter has been received by Mr. W. S. Louison, of this city, from Captain A. R. B. Duck, on Salisbury Plains:—

Assigned Pay Branch, Canadian Contingent, 10 Bourne Avenue, Salisbury, Wilt., 27th January, 1915.

Dear Friend Louison—Your letter and cards received to-day and they were certainly welcome. Well in my last letter to you I said something about the German raid in the east coast of England and prophesied that they would get it back. Well they sure did. Last Sunday four of their big ships, accompanied by a fleet of light cruisers and destroyers, were intercepted by a British (that name British looks good, doesn't it?) fleet of about the same strength, about 30 miles from the English coast. They were bent on the same errand again and thought they could fire a few hundred shells on defenceless towns and scurry home, but not this time. As soon as they sighted our ships they turned tail and ran, but this time no fog intervened and they got a good sound licking. Our fleet consisted of the Lion, Tiger, Princess Royal, Indomitable, New Zealand, with a number of small cruisers and a fleet of destroyers. It's great to read the account of this scrap. The Lion was Admiral Beatty's flagship and consequently led the line and suffered a little damage. I am sending you a clipping which describes this fight well. The Canadians here were very interested in the fight when they knew the Princess Royal and Tiger were in it, as the former was our protection across the Atlantic, and the latter was at Devonport when we landed there. She was just out of the dockyard, and was taking on supplies. We were all over her while there, and I remember one sailor saying to us, "wait till we get after Bill's ships with her sir, there will be something doing," and there certainly was. I am enclosing a cut of the Tiger. Notice those 15.5 guns sticking out, they are nasty looking. We know you know to-day was the Kaiser's birthday, but Monday happened to be Fisher's birthday, and you can easily guess who's navy gave the best present. This fight settles for this war as to who is Mistress of the Sea. I suppose you are thinking at times that it is taking a long time to trim the Germans. Well, it is only now that one can really see what is taking place. Slowly but surely the Allies are drawing the net closer. Only to-day a Russian submarine (manned by British officers) torpedoed a German cruiser off the coast of Sweden. This closes Germany's last outlet or line of whatever she likes. There is no place now to get supplies. You will readily see this from the fact that as soon as ever this happened the German Government seized all grain in the country, they say themselves so that it will not be wasted. Well, let them have their own idea, but we can still get whatever we like. Now I guess you think I might write about something else, as you have heard all about this as soon as we did, but I just cannot help telling you because to the average person this shows conclusively the beginning of what I still guess! Kitchener on being asked the other day by a lady (you know the ladies are always asking funny questions) when will this war end, sir? "I don't know that, but I know it's going to start on or about May 1st." Now I like to think about that for when K. of K. starts a war its going to go his own way from the beginning, so you may look out for a little skirmishing along about next spring, when the grass begins to shoot. The poor Germans will have about all of nature against them will they not when the grass starts (pardon the joke, I never heard it before, sure). Speaking of, or rather writing about, jokes reminds me of a good one I heard the other day while I was in Edinburgh. I got into conversation with a Scotsman who could appreciate a joke even if it was on his own countrymen. I got off one that I thought pretty good, he smiled and asked me if I ever heard about the Yankee and Scot who were talking about close races he had witnessed. The Yankee told a pretty tall one when the Scot said: "Once I saw a race when both horses were neck and neck at the half, neck and neck at the three-quarter pole, and the same as they came under the wire, but just then one horse stuck out his tongue and so won by a tongue. Did you ever see a closer race than that," he asked the Yankee. "Well," drawled the Yank, "I once stayed in Scotland for a month." Get the joke, eh. Now as back to the war, I don't know what to hear about the island boys, well they are Islanders yet, so you know how they are. Two of them have been

very sick, but are around again and are to be invalided home shortly. The rest, in spite of all the colds, spinal meningitis (I generally try and make a bolt when I write that word, but forgot this time) and suchlike, are in good health and happy. The signallers from Charlottetown are with the first brigade. I saw Ronald Stewart Sunday night and he was looking fine. I do not know where you could find such another bunch of good fellows as Stewart, Weeks, Large, Whitlock and one or two others whose names I forget, as I did not know them in Charlottetown. Whitlock has a perpetual grin, warranted not to crack or wear off. They seem to be just as happy as if they were on Victoria Park practising, but I suppose they have their lonesome moments just the same as all the rest of us, but there seems to be always something coming along at the right time to cheer a fellow up. Just as one gets lonely along comes a Canadian mail, and away goes your spirits up again. I got several Patriots and Guardians to-day from home, and am having a look at every chance I get, and am looking forward to a good hour or two when I get home to-night, or rather when I get to the hotel where I sleep. I like to think of just one spot and one only to apply that name to. You understand.

Well the Canadians are moving at last to France, starting to-day to get ready and by Saturday or Sunday I expect they will be in full swing. The 4th Brigade forms the base for the Division, so the Island infantrymen will not go just yet, but they will get there soon enough, I guess. They go to the south of France every chance I get. Part of the second contingent I hear will go to Egypt, but it is not known for sure yet.

Well, all our nice little schemes of military tactics are pretty well knocked out in this war, extended order, etc., does not play much part. Dig, dig, get down under the earth, burrow like a rat and keep at it, and keep the other fellow from doing the same if you can. I think it would be a capital idea of arming that Home Guard of yours, especially the York Company, with picks and shovels (seeing the rifles are scarce) and getting them out on the roads, this spring, then we could have autos on more than the Union Road. I hope you will give this matter your serious consideration, for a man that can use a shovel or a pick is very handy in the firing line just now. Speaking of Home Guards, nearly all the work of special police, etc., is done here by the old men, and they seem very proud to be able to do something. Has the knitting craze struck Charlottetown yet? It is full swing here. You trip over balls of yarn everywhere. I'd hate to have to wear some of the things I see being fashioned, though I have not been able to figure out just what some of them really are. Now I think I'll close for this time. I know I have not told you anything very interesting, but do not wait for me to write, send along a letter any old time. By the way, I saw in the paper to-day that the Prince Street School were compiling weekly budgets of news. Well that is a capital idea, for you would then get all interesting news in condensed form and yes, let me see, Prince Street School is composed of girls, is it not? So much the better, for all the news will be gathered sure. If you can get one of those send one along. I see on my desk before me a copy of the Island Patriot of Jan. 11th and I am going to read that just now. With best regards, Your old friend, A. R. B. DUCK.

MAJOR INGS SECOND IN COMMAND. HALIFAX, Feb. 15.—The list of officers provisionally appointed to the sixth mounted rifles now being formed at Anson's, has been drawn up by the military authorities.

The Regimental Staff is composed of Lieut. Col. R. H. Ryan, of the 14th Hussars, and Major, second in command, Lieut. Col. A. E. Ings, 36th P. E. Island Light Horse; Adjutant, Capt. D. W. Roscoe, 14th Hussars and Quarter Master, Hon. Capt. and Qm. R. A. March, 8th Hussars. Attached to the squadrons are the following officers from P. E. Island: Major T. H. E. Inman, 36th P. E. I. L. H. Capt. F. P. Bell, 36th P. E. I. L. H. Captain A. C. Squarebriggs, 36th P. E. I. L. H. Lieutenant H. L. Downess, 36th P. E. I. L. H.

RECRUITING MEETINGS

Will be held at the following times and places: O'Leary February 17th; February 18th; Summerside February 19th; N. Milton February 20th; Murray Harbor South, Feb. 22nd; Hunter River February 23rd; York February 24th; Souris February 25th; P. E. I. February 26th; Pownal February 27th. Prominent platform speakers will be present at all these meetings.

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