

"INFAMOUS" PLOT OF KAISER EXPOSED TO CANADIAN VIEW

Sir Robert Borden Goes into Details as to What Led Premier Asquith to Make Use of That Adjective in British Commons

NO HINT OF PARTY STRIFE AT OTTAWA
SIR WILFRID MAKES GREAT ORATION

Ringling Cheers Greet Utterances of Canadian Leaders as They Speak Support of Unstinted Aid to Maintain Integrity of British Empire

From a Staff Correspondent.

OTTAWA, AUG. 20.—"Not for the love of battle, not for the lust of conquest, not for greed of possessions, but for the cause of honor, to maintain solemn pledges, to uphold principles of liberty, to withstand forces that would convert the world into an armed camp, yea, in the very name of the peace that we sought at any cost save that of dishonor, we have entered into this war, and while gravely conscious of the tremendous issues involved, and of all the sacrifices that they may entail, we do not shrink from them, but with firm hearts we abide the event."

These words, uttered by Sir Robert Laird Borden at the conclusion of a speech that will be historic, produced a scene in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon unprecedented in Canadian Parliamentary annals. Liberals, Conservatives, Nationalists—peace-at-any-price and peace-with-honor men—all joined in a demonstration of loyalty to the Motherland that swept the surface and stirred the depths of the House. It was a spectacle to thrill—and it thrilled with patriotism crowded galleries and a crowded Commons. Party differences were cast to the winds, politics—everything but Canada's duty to the Motherland in her hour of trial—was forgotten. A united Parliament proclaimed to the world that the "Wants of the Outer March, the Lords of the Lower Seas" are rallying to England's call that:

"Also we will make promise, so long as the Blood endures,
I shall know that your good is mine; ye shall feel that my strength
is yours;
In the day of Armageddon, at the last great Fight of all,
That our house shall stand together, and the Pillars do not
fall."

The House of Commons was conscious that it was making history, and the speeches were worthy of the great occasion. Calm, sober, inflexibly resolute, Sir Robert Borden was never greater. Clearly, with the force of intense conviction, he analyzed the causes that led up to the terrible conflict, and impressively showed that, circumstantially and unmistakably, the blame for the drenching of all Europe in blood must rest on the shoulders of the German Kaiser—and that England and the Empire battle for the rights and liberties of mankind.

NONE FOR PARTY; ALL FOR STATE.

On an equally high plane were the speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the mover and seconder of the Address. None were for Party, and all for State. It was perhaps fitting that the mover of the Address was a sturdy representative of that intrepid race that has billowed every British battlefield with their graves for three hundred years—Donald Sutherland, of Oxford. In plain and simple language he pointed Canada to the pathway of duty. "The greatest disaster of all times is upon us. Where do we stand? What are the sentiments of our people? We are involved in this war, with all its consequences. We have sought peace, but not dishonorable peace, but a peace consistent with the best traditions of the British Empire. War has been forced upon the Empire. We believe that Britain's cause is just, that she faces this terrible hour strong in the conviction that she is fighting for the liberties of the civilized world. The blush of shame is on our cheek that we have not in the past played the part in aid of the Motherland that duty called upon us to play. The flower and the youth of our manhood fighting shoulder to shoulder with the men of Britain in this great struggle will perhaps make up for the past. To-day there is no sacrifice we are not prepared to make. Let our aid be immediate and sufficient." A roll of cheering answered this patriotic call.

Mr. D. O. Lesperance, a French-Canadian from the historic County of Montmagny, is next on his feet. He pleads for a united front in the hour of common danger—that the parties forget their differences, bury the past, and meet the enemy in common cause. It is an eloquent speech, delivered with Gallic fervor and depth of feeling, and the whole House unstintingly applauds.

ful, and earnest consideration which was permitted to me in the short time that has elapsed since their arrival. I am convinced that no Government ever with more whole-hearted earnestness sought to keep the peace of the world and the peace of this Empire than did His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The whole history of Great Britain for many years past has been one which sought for the reduction of armaments, and to escape the danger which lurks in the enormous armed forces with which the nations of Europe have confronted each other. In every year since the Hague Conference of 1907 British statesmen have treated with the nations of the world to reduce their armaments. At the Hague Conference and on many occasions since, Great Britain offered to give up what would seem to be very material advantages to her in time of war if by such concessions she could induce Germany and the other countries to abate the awful increase in armaments of war which was going on. Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Churchill, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Acland—I have their utterances under hand and I could read them to the House if there were occasion. Time after time, year after year, on occasion after occasion, the British Government has shown itself most truly and earnestly desirous of bringing about such conditions in Europe as would make for perpetual peace if that could be accomplished.

Final Offer to Kaiser.

"Those who will read the papers that have been laid upon the table of the House to-day will find that in the very last moment of peace before Great Britain finally embarked in the conflict she made this earnest proposal to the German Government: That if this most appealing crisis could be passed it would make for peace, and she would make every influence and every effort that she could command to bring about such an understanding between her ally on the one hand and Russia and France on the other hand as would relieve Germany and Austria from any apprehension of attack from that quarter, and the Minister professed himself as inspired with a very full confidence that if this crisis could have been passed that great result would have been brought about.

"I am not going to dwell for more than a moment on the earlier aspects of the war—the war which broke out between Austria and Serbia—but I cannot escape the conviction after having read the documents to which I have alluded, and I do not think any member of this House or any man in this country can escape the conviction that there was a deliberate determination in the first place of forcing the war upon Serbia, regardless of any humiliation to which she might consent, or of any consequences which might result from that war. I say that that is my deliberate conviction and I would like to quote in that regard what Sir Edward Grey himself has said. The most imperious demand ever made on any free nation in the world was made by the Austrian monarchy on Serbia on the 24th day of July. It was not to be called an ultimatum, as they afterwards explained, it was to be called a demarche, with a time limit and the time limit to that demand served at Belgrade on the 24th day of July was to be delivered not later than half past six o'clock on the evening of the next day. I have a summary of the demand, and of Serbia's answer under my hand, and I say that the perusal of that demand and of the answer which Serbia gave to it impresses us with the truth of what Sir Edward Grey stated when he said, "It seemed to me that the Servian reply already involved the greatest humiliation to Serbia that I have ever seen a country undergo."

"Every demand, demands of the most extreme character were conceded except one, and that was rejected only conditionally, and the demand which was not conceded was one which would give to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy for the time being control almost of the Servian judicial system, insofar as inquiry was to be made into certain matters connected with the assassination of the unfortunate Archduke.

"The answer of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy to that humiliating reply of Serbia was that the answer was not worthy to be regarded and it was followed by an almost instant declaration of war. Well as you know the British Government, and particularly the Foreign Minister upon whom this tremendous responsibility rested, made every possible attempt at mediation even after that. On the 26th and 27th days of July he asked the great powers of the world to consent to mediation, and every one of the great powers consented to that mediation except the Government of Germany. Germany said they accepted it in principle, but after that there was merely inaction and evasion. In the end the efforts at mediation were absolutely fruitless. All action was evaded and the question arose as to what should be the course of Great Britain with regard to the war. Great Britain sought by every possible means, by negotiations and otherwise to bring about that that war should be carried on under such conditions that she need not intervene, and the great question which arose at once was as to the neutrality and independence of Belgium, and to have that neutrality and independence respected by the great powers of Europe, particularly Germany and France, both of whom in common with Great Britain had guaranteed that neutrality, first of all in 1831, afterwards in 1839, and afterwards so far as Germany and France were concerned, during the period of the Franco-Prussian war. I need not read the disposition of the treaty. It provided that Belgium should for all time to come be an absolutely neutral and independent country.

Guaranteed by Europe.

That was guaranteed by Great Britain, France, Germany, by all the great Powers of Europe. So great was the interest of Great Britain in this regard during the Franco-Prussian War that she negotiated two treaties at that time, one with the North German Confederation and one with France. The treaty which she negotiated with the North

German Confederation provided that the neutrality of Belgium should be respected, and that if the neutrality should not be respected by France during that war, then Great Britain bound herself to fight with the North-German Confederation against France in defence of Belgian neutrality.

She concluded also another treaty with France by which in the same terms she bound herself with France that if the North-German Confederation during that war should violate the neutrality of Belgium she would fight with France against the North German Confederation in support of Belgium independence and Belgium neutrality.

Plans Laid Years Ago.

"I cannot resist the conclusion, and I do not think that any man who reads these documents can resist the conclusion that it was the deliberate intention of the Government of Germany formed many years ago to violate the neutrality and independence of Belgium in case war should break out with France. I say that because every man in this country, every man throughout the world, knows that plans of campaign are not made after war breaks out. Plans of campaign are made long in advance and the German plan of campaign which has been carried out in the present war is one which involved as a first step in their warlike operations the absolute violation of the independence of Belgium, and I do not think it is amiss to read a few words from Sir Edward Grey's speech in that regard. He said:

"We were sounded, in the

course of last week, whether if a guarantee were given that after the war Belgium neutrality would be preserved that would content us. We replied that we could not barter away whatever interest or obligations we had in Belgium neutrality.

In speaking of the interests of the small nationalities of Europe in this event, he pointed out what will commend itself to the judgment of every man in this House; that once a free nation, once any of the small nationalities commits itself to the principle of having its territory overrun by the armed forces of another nation without offering any resistance, from that time not only the neutrality but the independence of that country was gone. Sir Edward Grey went on to say this with regard to Holland and Belgium:

"The smaller States in that region of Europe ask but one thing. Their one desire is that they should be left alone and independent. The one thing they fear is, I think, not so much that their integrity, but that their independence, should be interfered with. If in this war which is before Europe the neutrality of one of those countries is violated, if the troops of one of the combatants violate its neutrality and no action be taken to resent it at the end of the war, whatever the integrity may be, the independence will be gone."

Further on he quoted with striking effect the words of Mr. Gladstone, uttered, if I remember correctly, at the time of the Franco-German War in 1870, when Mr. Gladstone said: "We have an interest in Belgium which is wider than that which we may have in the liberal operation of the guarantee. It is found in the answer to the question whether under the circumstances of the case, this country, endowed as it is, with influence and power, could quietly stand by and witness the perpetration of the direst crimes that ever stained the pages of history and thus become participators in the stigma.