

Mentioned in Despatches

GEORGE H. BRADBURY, who has been called to the Senate, was formerly member for Selkirk, Manitoba, being first elected to the House of Commons in 1903. Some time ago Bradbury organized and took overseas an infantry battalion and then returned to Canada. He is a native of Ottawa.

GEN. ARMANDO DIAZ, who replaces Gen. Cadorna in the command of the Italian forces, is said to have created a very favorable impression with the Allied generals supporting the Italian forces in Italy. Diaz, is a native of Naples, was educated at the military college in that city and afterwards at the famous Italian Military School at Turin. He fought through the Abyssinian War and the Libyan War, at both of which he won promotion. His two chief characteristics are tremendous driving power and marked ability as an organizer.

MR. R. J. BULKLEY, of Cleveland, is the United States commissioner who with Sir Henry Drayton will make an effort to adjust the power problems associated with the Niagara Falls. For some years people on both sides of the Niagara River have protested against the further use of the power for commercial purposes, and after a good deal of agitation both Canada and the United States have appointed commissioners to settle the problem. Mr. Bulkley was a former member of Congress, and in general is very prominent in Democratic circles. He is a graduate of Harvard.

D. M. FINNIE, who addressed the shareholders of the Bank of Ottawa at the annual meeting held here a few days ago, is a Scotchman like most of our bankers. He was born at Peterhead, Scotland, in 1849, and learned the value of "bawbees" and what interest is while working for various Scottish banks. He came to Canada as a young man and for some years was connected with the Bank of British North America, later joining the Bank of Ottawa. He was made assistant general manager in 1903 and appointed general manager some two years ago. He is a brother of Dr. Finnie, M.P.P., of this city.

MAJOR W. L. GRANT, who has just been made headmaster of the Upper Canada College, is to the manner born. "Willie" Grant, as he is known to his friends, is a son of the late Principal Grant, of Queen's University. He was educated at that university, and then in England, where he also held a professorial chair at Oxford. Later Mr. Grant returned to Queen's as head of the history department, and now goes to Upper Canada College. Grant is a forceful writer and a good historian, and altogether is one of the brightest and best informed educationalists in the Dominion.

JOSEPH HOBSON, for a number of years chief engineer of the Grand Trunk Railway System, and widely known as the builder of the St. Clair Tunnel and the re-construction of the Victoria Bridge, has just died at his home in Hamilton. Mr. Hobson was born at Guelph, Ont., in 1834, and entered the services of the old Great Western Railway in 1853. When it was absorbed by the Grand Trunk he went with the parent company and remained with it until he retired a few years ago as consulting engineer of the system. The late engineer was a courtly gentleman of the old school, but in addition to that was one of the foremost engineers this country has produced.

THAT the present government is a union one could not be shown to better advantage than by consideration of some of the names of the Liberals who have cast in their lot with the Conservatives to form a coalition. One of the most outstanding names is that of Major H. M. Mowat, who was elected in the Parkdale constituency in Toronto. Major Mowat is a nephew of the late Sir Oliver Mowat who was premier of Ontario for a quarter of a century, and then went to Ottawa as a member of Laurier's first cabinet. The name Mowat is thoroughly identified with Ontario Liberalism and Sir Oliver's nephew believes that he is just as good a Liberal as his uncle ever was. Major Mowat is one of the few Liberals who have ever been elected from Tory Toronto. Mowat is a lawyer by profession, keenly interested in military matters, a forceful speaker and good debater, and ought to bring a large measure of strength to the Union Government.

AMONG the promotions recently announced by the Royal Bank of Canada was that of Mr. S. D. Boak, who was promoted from Chief Accountant to Secretary. Mr. Boak, like so many of our prominent bankers, is a Nova Scotian, a native of Halifax, and received his early banking experience in the Union Bank of Halifax. After some years banking experience he went into business with his father, but returned to his first love, receiving a post in the head office of the Union Bank of Halifax. When that bank was merged with the Royal he came to Montreal, where he has remained as chief accountant. He is extremely popular with the banking fraternity, and has the confidence of business men to an unusual degree.

A SOMEWHAT unusual occurrence has just taken place in Brant, Canada, where two Cockshutt brothers were elected to Parliament. W. F., late sitting member for Brantford, ran in the Conservative interests, and was elected, while his brother, Col. Harry, ran in Brant County, where he was successful in beating out his opponents. In the last Parliament, or at least for a portion of the time, two Sharpe brothers were in the House of Commons, Col. Sam representing one of the Ontarios and his brother, W. H., from a Manitoba constituency. Later, the western member was called to the Senate. Two other brothers prominent in political life in the Dominion are the Siftons. Sir Clifford, former Minister of the Interior in the Laurier Cabinet, and the Hon. Arthur, for many years premier of Alberta, and now a member of the Coalition Cabinet.

U. S. SUGAR INQUIRY.

International phases.

When on the witness stand, at the investigation held by the Senate Investigating Committee, Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refineries Company, said that during 1917 the American exported 121,000 tons of sugar, which is but 11½ per cent of its total business. The president of the American company then referred the committee to the attempt made in the Senate last summer to repeal the sugar drawback. This, he said, sent foreign purchasers into the Cuban market and the price of the sugar went up. The price, duty paid in New York, of Cuban sugar was \$5.96 on June 20. It rose to \$6.52 on June 26, and went to \$7.52 on August 7, the witness said, because of the threat to repeal the sugar drawback.

A summary of Mr. Babst's direct testimony was distributed in the committee room. This read as follows:

"With one-third of the world's sugar production within the present battle lines, England, France and other foreign countries have turned to Cuba and other sources which ordinarily supply the United States.

"The immediate causes of the present shortage are (1) increased consumption and (2) inadequate supply and delayed distribution.

"SUGAR FAMINE" STORIES.

"Early in 1917 there were serious strikes in nearly all the eastern refineries. This caused public apprehension. Sensational 'sugar famine' stories began to appear in the papers later and the public fears were still further excited by stories of the destruction of cane in the Cuban insurrection. A desire by the trade to avoid excise taxes proposed by Congress added to the call for sugar. The demand among dealers, manufacturers and consumers continued all the year and was accompanied by hoarding.

"A great mid-summer canning and preserving campaign urged by the Government, furthered by the trade, by the canning clubs and women's magazines and the press generally followed, so that by November the consumption was shown to be more than one thousand tons a day greater than the year before. It amounted to nearly nine hundred million pounds more than for the same period in 1916.

"So much for the demand. Now as to the supply and distribution. Java had plenty of sugar, but it is so far that ships took other trade channels.

"The harvesting of both cane and beet crops in the United States was delayed. But more important,

car shortages and traffic congestions prevented the free movement of these crops to the Atlantic seaboard.

FOREIGN ORDERS TO CUBA.

"Very important in its effect on the supply for America was the proposal on June 1 of the Senate Finance Committee to repeal the 'drawback' of over 1c a pound on refined sugar sold abroad, and the placing of an excise tax of ½c a pound. When the Senate Finance Committee made these propositions the sugar industry urged that the higher prices to foreign customers would so disturb the world's sugar market as to create a troublesome situation for the United States. Seemingly in order to forestall the expected higher prices foreign buyers went into the Cuban market and bought heavily thus reducing the supply available for America. Our imports from Cuba were about the same as in previous years, but so great was our consumption that the imports were not nearly enough. Cuba's extraordinary shipments to Europe reduced our available supply for the fall months by nearly 450,000,000 pounds."

Punctuated by personal remarks of a bitter nature, the testimony of Claus A. Spreckels, of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, before the Senate Manufacturers' Committee brought forth the fact that the high price of sugar was due in part to the Cuban Government.

The question also brought forth the fact that Mr. Spreckels had joined with other refiners to oppose the movement started in the Senate last summer to repeal the sugar drawback. It was brought out that the threat to repeal the drawback sent foreign buyers into the Cuban raw market and ran the price up.

In answer to Judge Lindley, Mr. Spreckels put into the record figures showing the quantity of sugar exported from Cuba. This showed that the quantity coming to the United States fell off considerably this year. This country obtained 2,169,000 tons of Cuban sugar in 1916, and only 1,968,000 tons this year. The exports to Canada, England and Spain and other countries increased. The figures showed that the total exports from Cuba in 1916 were 2,887,207 tons and 2,893,479 tons in 1917.

It was then brought out that the Cuban Government imposed an embargo on sugar on October 1 last and refused to allow any of the crop to be exported that did not sell for at least \$6.75. Judge Lindley then attempted to bring out that, inasmuch as the Food Administration was successful in its negotiations with the Cuban Government to agree upon a fixed price for the Cuban crop at \$4.60, the Administration had been extremely successful in its operations in this regard.

Senator Lodge pointed out that it was not the province of a committee of the Senate to examine into the motives of a friendly foreign government. He stated that Cuba had a right to obtain the best price possible for her sugar, and Senator Reed insisted that Cuba would not have undertaken to fix upon this price had she not learned in advance that we and other agents were intending to fix a price for them on their own crop.

Mr. Hoover said in his statement that the United States had gotten along during October, November and December with 70 per cent of normal supply of sugar, and had shipped the other 30 per cent to France. The statement also said that he had 500,000 tons of sugar during October and November. Mr. Spreckels said that as an actual fact we shipped only 24,037 tons of sugar to France in October and none since, and if that was 30 per cent of our supply then our supply during these three months was but 87,000 tons instead of the 500,000 tons, which Mr. Hoover claimed he had.

In answer to questions put by Senator Reed, the witness said that probably 5,000 tons of sugar would have relieved the recent shortage in the East and all of that could have been brought from the West. He figured that a trainload of sugar would total 1,500 tons and therefore it would have required but a little more than three trains to bring it across. The freight charge, he said, is 65 cents per 100 pounds.

The controversy was summed up by Senator Kenyon who suggested that there had been a general row among the American refiners for the past ten years or more. Mr. Spreckels said that the row had not been in evidence during the past two years.

"They tell me Jones has a runabout."

"Yes, he's just got married, and she belongs to five clubs."