

Messages to the People of British Columbia

FROM REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS AT VICTORIA

A REPRESENTATIVE of THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY had the privilege of being in attendance at the provincial legislature during the closing days of the session. Among other matters following therefrom, we are pleased that we are to be able to publish a number of short messages to the people of British Columbia from representative men on both sides of the house.

Towards the end of the session at least many of the representatives on the Speaker's right, and particularly the Ministers of the Crown, and naturally the opposition leader, Mr. W. J. Bowser, on the left, were exceptionally busy—as busy for the time being as most journalists, with their minds and hearts in their work, are all the time. Premier Oliver was overworked, and when THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY representative spoke to him after the evening sederunt, about midnight on the Saturday, he remarked that his head was "going like a gristmill." Obviously, Premier Oliver was one of the most heavily exercised men in the place, but again and again he seemed to come back smiling.

FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE,
HON. JOHN HART

it was of interest to learn in conversation that he is an Irish-born Canadian, a home-ruler and also a conscriptionist. For nineteen years he has been a Victoria man, and before his election to the house he was engaged in business in the capital city. Mr. Hart seems to be an old-young man, though closer acquaintance suggests to the observer that his grey hairs must have come from undue exercise of the "grey matter,"

rather than from lapse of years, for we gathered that he is still a young man on the sunny verge of forty, and so from the standard set in some parts of the empire in intellectual pursuits and statesmanship he is a comparative junior.

The advance of the present Minister of Finance in the public life of Western Canada may be reckoned as in some measure a tribute to the opportunities of the country no less than to the native worth and work of this bright young Irishman, who, like many others from the centre of empire, has found his home and his life-work in the Farthest West.

The following is the short message of the Minister of Finance to the people of British Columbia, prepared at our request for publication in this magazine:

"With the close of the legislative session the government is left with the responsibility of carrying into effect the policies to which the members of the Assembly have given the sanction of legislation. Sincere and honest in its desire to serve the province faithfully and well, the government asks for the cordial co-operation of all the people in the solving of the problems which will come to British Columbia, as to all other portions of the empire, with the ending of the war, in the utilization of its resources and in the bringing about of increased production along all lines. With an honorable and a lasting peace, brought about by a decisive victory for the Allied arms, a bright future is spread out before this province. It will be the duty of government and people alike, taught by the lessons of the conflict now being waged in France for right and liberty, to show themselves worthy of the heritage which is theirs and of the corner of the empire which is allotted to them to guard and develop. Existing conditions have made it imperative that a greater amount of revenue be derived from taxation, but we desire that this shall be levied justly and fairly over the whole