

Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labour, visited Ottawa on April 26, and while in the capital, delivered inspiring addresses in the House of Commons and at the Canadian Club banquet. The messages that Mr. Gompers brought to Canada clearly showed the attitude of the labour world with regard to the war and its resolute stand with the Allies.

In the following pages will be found both of the addresses referred to, and also the welcome extended to the President of the American Federation of Labour by the Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, on behalf of the Parliament of Canada, in the absence of Sir Robert Borden, and by the Speaker of the House, the Hon. E. N. Rhodes.

BEFORE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
APRIL 26, 1918.

The SPEAKER (Hon. E. N. Rhodes): Mr. Gompers; it is an exceedingly pleasant duty for me to have the privilege on behalf of the House of Commons to bid you welcome to Canada and to a House composed of the duly elected representatives of Canadian democracy. Our welcome goes out to you not only as the Chairman of the Committee on Labour of the Council of National Defence, and as President of the American Federation of Labour, but also for those sterling personal qualities which have sustained you as the natural head of that great organization which you have led with such distinct success for a long period of years.

We are sensible of the great service you have rendered to the United States, with whom our relations have been so happy as a neighbour and Ally in the common cause which we all have at heart and which you have so aptly described as "the holy war for democracy."

Your visit here, though all too brief, will, I am sure, serve to stimulate us in our war effort and materially assist in still further cementing the friendly ties which exist between the United States and ourselves.

While recognizing you as a loyal citizen of the United States, it is pleasant for us to remember that you first saw the light of day in those little islands which cradled Democracy and which today, after nearly four years of war, are fighting with our heroic allies to preserve to the world civilization and liberty.

We hope your visit to Canada may prove a pleasant one, and we ask you to take back with you a message to your countrymen that Canada will stand steadfast with them and with our allies until victory is achieved.

Hon. CHARLES J. DOHERTY (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Gompers: in the absence of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden), an absence which, I am sure, he must sincerely regret, there falls to me the duty—I should rather say there comes to me the privilege—of endeavouring to express to you, the hearty welcome of the House of Commons of Canada, and the hearty welcome of the people of Canada. That welcome would have been here for you had you come to us merely in your personal capacity. To us, as to the world, is known, the place that you have earned for yourself within your own country by the wise direction that you have given to that great element of the population which, in your country, as in ours, must always, as it is justly entitled to, exercise so wide and so large an influence in determining the policy of any democratic nation. But you come to us today not only with that claim upon our hearty welcome, you come to us as the chairman of one of the most important committees, or branches, of the National Defense Committee of the United States of America. You come to us as a distinct and important member of that committee, you come to us as one taking a large and active part in what is really the defense of all the allied democratic nations that are banded together in this great struggle for the vindication of right and in order that our common Christian civilization may prevail throughout the world. In that quality you have an absolute claim to our most hearty welcome, and most assuredly you have it. You have also another claim that appeals equally to the Canadian heart. You come to us as the representative of that great nation whose northern borders, whether on the one side or on the other, have long been undefended because the neighbouring peoples have lived alongside of each other in perfect amity and concord. If that was true before we found ourselves allied in the great struggle to which both of our countries are committed, how much more true is it to-day? Your country, the big brother, if I may so describe it, for reasons that we need not now go into, deemed it proper to leave the old home and establish himself upon his own responsibility. We, the younger brother, have remained at home, and so remaining have found that as we grew and advanced, we grew and advanced in the possession and the enjoyment of as wide a scope of liberty as even you, our bigger bro-