

the press, from so many reliable people, and we know that in Ottawa it has been found necessary to open an office for the purpose of receiving relief for these miners. The Minister of Labour, instead of coming to this House and spreading sunshine, should be down in Nova Scotia trying to do something to settle that strike. This wonderful man, this Minister of Labour, it seems to me, has fallen down. When we consider the statements made by him prior to elections and when we consider and examine his record since he has been a minister, we wonder what has happened to this reincarnation of Jack the Giant-killer. I do not propose to deal at any further length with the "maiden budget speech" of the Minister of Labour.

I wish to take this opportunity of referring to a tour which I was privileged to take with other members of this House and members of the Senate to South Africa last year. It is only fit and proper that some member of that delegation in this House should acknowledge the courtesies extended to us in South Africa and elsewhere. You, Mr. Speaker, I think will be interested in what I am going to say, because of the fact that in 1910 you made a similar trip, and you will be able to follow my remarks and, I hope, will commend them. The tour was made under the auspices of the Empire Parliamentary Association, which has a branch in Canada. All the members of this House are not members of that association, but they should be; it is a splendid organization, and one that is worthy of the support of all parliamentarians in this country. This was the first united parliamentary delegation of its kind to an overseas dominion that had ever been attempted. The Empire Parliamentary Association was formed when many of the dominion statesmen were in London for the coronation. In 1913, a number of British members of parliament toured the whole of the dominions, and in 1916, representatives of the empire parliaments held a war-time conference in London, visited the munition-making areas and went over to France. Since the armistice an unofficial delegation has visited Canada. But the programme of this tour was the most ambitious of all inasmuch as members of all parliaments in the empire except Newfoundland were to spend two months together in South Africa studying the potentialities of the union on the spot and exchanging counsels as to the various problems affecting the empire. The delegation was headed by the Right Hon. J. H. Thomas, then Colonial Secretary, with Viscount Burnham as his deputy; and when the British delegates had to leave, when

the delegates were at Victoria Falls, Sir George Foster was appointed chairman. I would like to pay a tribute to Sir George Foster. He was a credit to Canada on that tour. He was without doubt one of the most eloquent speakers on the whole delegation. He received a wonderful reception in South Africa, and considering the fact that he celebrated his seventy-seventh birthday in Zululand, it is truly remarkable that he was able to carry on so splendidly. I might mention that this was not a trade mission in any sense of the term. It was purely and simply a fraternal visit, if I might put it in that way. The Canadian delegates were chosen by a committee on which I think you, Sir, and the Speaker of the Senate acted. There was no politics about the matter. The whole tour was non-political, all parties being represented. The Canadian delegates were Sir George Foster, Senator Robert Watson of Manitoba, Senator Willoughby of Saskatchewan, Senator Gustave Boyer of Quebec, the junior member for Ottawa (Mr. Chevrier), the hon. member for L'Islet (Mr. Fafard) the hon. member for St. John City and Counties of St. John and Albert (Mr. MacLaren), and myself as representing New Westminster. I am sorry to have to report that when we were in the Transvaal, it was necessary for Senator Boyer, on account of ill-health, to return to Canada, and he was unable to complete the tour. All expenses were borne by the government of South Africa from whom the invitation was received. It originated with General Smuts. It is unnecessary for me, of course, to say anything about General Smuts' record, how he was one of the Boer generals who fought against us in the Boer war, how later on when peace was declared he became a thoroughly loyal British subject and how during the late Great war he took a very prominent part on the side of the allies. General Smuts is a very outstanding figure in South Africa. After the invitation had been received the elections were brought on in South Africa and a change of government took place. General Hertzog, the head of the Nationalist party, was returned to power. He was not considered an imperialist; in fact, during the election his party, according to their statements, stood for the secession of South Africa from the British Empire. It was expected therefore in view of these facts that the invitation might be withdrawn by General Hertzog, but on the contrary it was renewed.

We sailed from Quebec on July 25 on the Montroyal arriving at Liverpool the first of August. We were met by representatives of the Canadian Pacific Railway over there