

SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. GRIMES, MEMBER FOR PORT DE GRAVE

Speaks of Britain's High Aims and How We All Should Help---He is Proud of Our Soldiers and Sailors---Urges the Government to Provide Employment---Condemns the Giving Out of Doles as Pauperizing---Advocates Free and Compulsory Education---And Development of Our Fisheries

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Speaker, with other hon. members who have discussed His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, I wish to endorse all that has been said in relation to what has been done for the welfare and support of the Empire.

We have good reason to feel proud of the efforts that have been put forth in the Colony for its maintenance and defense against the aggressions of the greatest military power known today. We believe from what has been said by those qualified by their experience and knowledge of military affairs, that in the terrible struggle in which the Empire is engaged, all the support that is possible for the colonies and other dependencies of the Empire to give must be forthcoming, if she is to emerge a victor in the struggle.

Sons of Great British Race
We in Newfoundland must not be a whit behind others in doing our share, and that such a willingness can be expected in all that is required is fully evidenced by the noble response already made by our young men in joining the Army and the Navy. Not only are they defending the Empire and its shores, but they are also defending the cause of liberty and freedom.

We are proud of our Volunteers! We are proud of our Naval Reserve! It shows that there lurks in the men of Newfoundland, sons of the great British race, the same spirit, the same love of liberty, the same courage and devotion, the same heroism as existed in their fathers, who of yore fought and gained all that liberty and freedom we hold so dear to-day, obtaining it at great cost, handing it down to us to maintain, preserve and to improve.

Defending Democracy
So we find the sons of Newfoundland lined up with the sons of the other Dominions of the Empire, ready to defend, with their lives, all that was handed down to them by their fathers. They are defending Democracy. Democracy is the opposite of Militarism. The former stands for Right as Right; the latter puts Might as Right.

Let Germany succeed, and militarism will dominate the world. The people will have little to say in State affairs, and War will continue to be as big a factor, if not bigger, in settling future disputes between the nations.

High Aim of Britain
What is Britain's aim in this war?

Mr. Asquith has stated it is first, the definite repudiation of militarism as the governing factor in the relation of states; second, the independent existence and free development of small nationalities; third, the substitution for force, for the clash of competing ambitions and for grouping alliances of a real European co-partnership.

Such, Sir, is the high aim of Britain in this War as expressed by its Premier, and is it not worthy of every assistance we can give and every sacrifice we can make?

What do Mr. Asquith's state-ments mean?

If they mean anything it is the construction of some international machinery that will lead to the settlement of disputes between nations by arbitration, instead of by the sword.

Go By Different Roads

Well may we feel proud that our boys are fighting for such great principles to govern the future conduct of nations. Our every hope and prayer should be that such will be the ultimate outcome of the present great struggle. Where the Government has been assisting in this direction it has my cordial support.

But, Sir, once we leave matters of Empire and touch upon our own local affairs, it is there we go by different roads. The Government takes one road. We, on the

Opposition side, take the other. I take it that the Governor's Speech is intended to outline what the Government will do during the present session.

There are some matters to which the Government promises to give attention, which are of deep concern.

Wanton Extravagance
There are other matters of very great and grave importance to which no reference is made. I shall refer to these.

There are unhappy conditions existing in the country to-day. The War and conditions of trade in other countries are being blamed for their existence. They may have played a part but not wholly.

Another cause can be found, and that is the wanton extravagance of the present Government. All these with the bad fishery of last year and the closing down of the mines have placed many of our people in a very unfortunate position, and I cannot see anything outlined in the Governor's Speech that will provide relief for them.

It is true that at present the Government is allowing the Poor Commissioners to give out relief to those in destitute circumstances. But what does the relief amount to? A little flour, tea and molasses.

Have They No Heart?
What a diet on which a man must depend to sustain life for himself, his wife and little ones. I do not know how the members of the Government would like to live on such a diet. I do not think they would have the same ruddy countenance or such well-developed bodies as have to-day.

Why do they not do something? Have they no heart? Are they looking for precedent in this country?

If so, then let them look at Australia and New Zealand to-day and they will find that their Governments out of the large loans they have borrowed since the war, are using a considerable portion for relieving the unemployed.

Australia is spending 18,000,000 in this direction by giving employment on public works of various kinds. New Zealand is also spending part of her loan in this way, and where shortly after the war there were 75,000 men out of employment, only a few thousand are in that position to-day and they are receiving attention.

Provide Against Starvation
It is the duty of the Government to provide against the starvation of its own people.

Money can be provided by our Government for the Army and Navy, and it is right that it should be so. It is also right and proper to provide our fishermen, our miners, our laborers and all others rendered poor by the war, bad trade and the other causes, against needless hardship and suffering.

If we cannot do without our soldiers and our sailors, no more can we do without our fishermen, miners and other workers. They are equally useful to the State, equally necessary for its upkeep.

They produce the wealth of the country and make the wheels of industry revolve. If they stop, the whole industry stops, and the country is paralysed.

The Worker and the Soldier
No soldier could make war, no miner could fight without the worker in the mine and factory.

This has been fully illustrated of late in the present war. Over thirty thousand engineers had volunteered for the war, and most were accepted and sent to the front, with the result that they began to find that their munition and gun shops could not turn out the quantities necessary, and that the Army and Navy would be useless unless their requirements were met. Many engineers were sent back to their workshops again.

This serves to show that the fisherman, the miner, the clerk, the manager, the captain of in-

dustries plays his equally important part to the Empire in the fields of industry, trade and commerce, as that of the soldier and the sailor.

Hardships and Dangers

The men who engage in our fishery and mining occupations are always exposed to hardships and dangers. On the average there are 87 of our fishermen who are drowned every year. Hundreds are injured in one way or another.

Many men are killed in various other industries, and many more maimed for life.

Industries have their victims as well as war, and to-day hundreds of men with their wives and little ones are suffering from the pangs of starvation, having failed after their arduous toil of the past year in securing the means to live.

They did the best they could and failed, and the Government allows them to suffer, or to get a little flour, tea and molasses.

Sir, this distribution of relief without an adequate return in labor is only pauperizing the people.

Not Charity But Work
They will not thank their God for it. It is not charity that the able-bodied man wants, it is work, and the Government must provide it, not later on, but now.

There are numbers of these men who would rather suffer than allow people to know their condition. They are men who want to be independent and look every other person square in the face and say, "For we owe not any man."

I hope before the Government closes this session it will cut down unnecessary expense in other directions, and use the savings for giving employment on public works.

There is another matter not referred to in the Governor's Speech and that is the question of the Minimum Wage.

The Minimum Wage
The Premier some six years ago spoke favorably on it in a speech delivered in the T. A. Hall. But up to the present time we see no provision being made to establish it. I had hoped before now to see some commission appointed that would be representative of the employer and employee with an outside person representing the State, who would determine a minimum wage that would at least allow a family man sufficient to provide himself and dependents with the comforts and necessities of life.

It is necessary for the protection of the good employer who seeks to be fair and just with his employee, but who is prevented from doing so to the extent he would but for the unfair competition of the employer who pays his employees as little as he can. It is necessary for the protection of the employee who, failing this, is ever at the mercy of such unscrupulous employers who think of profit only, and never the welfare of their men.

Compulsory Education

Another matter referred to last year but not given consideration to in the Governor's speech is that of Compulsory Education.

I am sorry the Government does not seem to be about to do anything in this direction. I have had occasion to go through several outposts within the past few months, and have seen children of schoolable age kept at home instead of being sent to school. Asking the reason why, I was told most of them belonged to families where there were five or six in family and that owing to the poor times the parents were unable to pay the school fees.

Consequently through an indifferent public and an equally indifferent government scores of children are being deprived of their education which seriously handicaps them in their start in life. Evidently the Government lacks the courage to deal with the question.

School fees are now being collected by the various schools which might hamper them in their work should that revenue be cut off. Let the Government provide the deficit and save the children by adopting free and compulsory education.

Our Fisheries

My friend the hon. member for Hr. Grace, Mr. Parsons, has directed our attention to the fisheries and in an interesting speech presented some striking figures relating to the development being made in the Canadian fisheries. He says the Canadian fisheries have almost doubled in value the past few years.

Ours have not advanced in anything like the same proportion. Why this difference? As Mr. Parsons says it lies in the fact that the Canadian Government has done everything to develop their fisheries and we have done very, very little.

The fisheries are still the mainstay of the country. The greater portion of our population is dependent upon them for their livelihood and we should show a greater enterprising spirit.

Teeming Millions of Fish

There is no telling the vast wealth that lies at our doors, beneath the sea. Teeming millions of fish of all kinds circle our coasts and if the Government had spent half the money they spend on branch railways in exploiting to greater extent this industry our country would be much better off than it is. Surely the time has come to take this matter up seriously.

There is one part of the Governor's Speech I heartily endorse, and that is the promised provision for the granting of financial assistance to those killed in the war.

I hope the Government will not be niggardly in the provision to be made. That it will be substantial and capable of meeting fully the requirements of all those who will require to avail of it.

American Note A Well Reasoned Document, Says Journal des Debats

French and Great Britain Will be Ready to Make Compensation For Any Losses Due to Errors of French and British Ships

Paris, April 10.—The Journal des Debats in a long editorial commenting on the American note regarding the allies blockade against Germany says it is a well reasoned document and that France and Great Britain will be ready to compensate innocent neutrals for losses due to errors made by French and British ships. In concluding the editorial says:

"Great Britain and France will certainly be in accord with the United States upon another point. They also are persuaded that what ever innovations in the rights of man are deemed necessary they should be in conformity at least with the spirit and principles that are the essence of the rules of war. For their part they have not infringed either the spirit or principles, but they are fighting with the enemy who recognizes no other rule than force and who whom any means to vanquish are good, even the most inhuman, even the most contrary to sacred laws."

"They find themselves before that adversary in a state of legitimate defence. Seized by the throat they take up the arms ready at hand. If third parties are disturbed in the course of this hand to hand fight, France and Great Britain are not responsible."

"Why instead of witnessing the combat as simple spectators, do not third parties throw themselves upon the highway robbers who have assailed innocent passers by? They would thus better render homage to principle than by looking from right to left to see if there is not something to pick up."

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STEER BROTHERS

How the Con-naughts Saved the Gordons

From the pen of W. Douglas Newton there is a thrilling article on the glorious work done by the Connaughts at the front in a recent issue of T.P.'s Journal of Great Deeds of the Great War. Here is a picture of how they came to the aid of the Gordons at the Battle of Ypres:

"At that critical moment the Highlanders heard, as the besieged people of Lucknow heard, high above the battle noise, the sound of song. It came towards them swinging forward at a swift and lusty gait, pushing through the battle tumult with its threads and notes of hope. The Gordons heard it coming and knew it meant rescue. They knew the song. It was "God Save Ireland," sung with a lilt and passion as it had never been sung before. It was sung by Irish lads. The Connaught Rangers were pressing through the battle to the aid of the Scots."

"Through the tumble and the smoke, in a line of power and determination, then, the Gordons saw the Irish lads coming running to their aid. They breathed through the sea of Germany grey. They swept over all things onward. They hurried along, coming with a mighty saut at a the left flank of the enemy, tearing through the ranks as though they were tissue paper, bursting through resistance as though it were made of straw. They seemed utterly reckless utterly without fear for themselves, and thrusting, hacking, shooting, clubbing, and fighting with tooth and nail, they broke their way through the grey battalions and came to the side of the Gordons."

"An officer was expecting to be able to make an attack on the enemy. When they did not turn up at the time at which they were expected a private said to officer, in tones of deepest anxiety, "I do 'ope as nuffin' 'avent' appened to the pore devils, sir."—Westminster Gazette.

Queen of Sweden Visits Germany

London, Wednesday, April 7.—Queen Victoria of Sweden will start for Germany next week, according to a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. She will reside with her mother at Karlsruhe.

The Queen of Sweden, who was Princess Victoria, is the daughter of the Grand Duke and Duchess of Baden.

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FORGING AHEAD!

That is the position of The Mail and Advocate, as each issue sees a larger sale. What about yours?

COAKER ENGINE

CAN'T BE BEATEN

SAYS FISHERMAN.

Mr. W. F. Coaker, M.H.A.

Dear Sir,—Just a few lines concerning the Coaker Engine that I purchased from the U. T. Co. this spring. I have used this engine all the summer without any trouble or difficulty; it really works like a clock.

We had our traps twelve miles from the schooner and that engine used to go there twice a day for a month, making its forty-eight miles a day back and forth, and used to tow another trap boat with her, which made a difference of about seven miles in forty-eight, so she actually ran fifty-five miles per day while at Belle Isle.

At Mugford's Harbor she averaged about thirty-five miles a day from the 14th of August to the 10th of September. I would not change this engine for any other six horse power engine on the market, either for speed or simplicity of operation. I passed motors this summer up to nine horse power. I haven't seen one to go with her this summer.

I advise all who want a good strong and reliable engine not to refuse the Coaker Engine, for she is certainly the best on the market.

ELIAS KEAN.