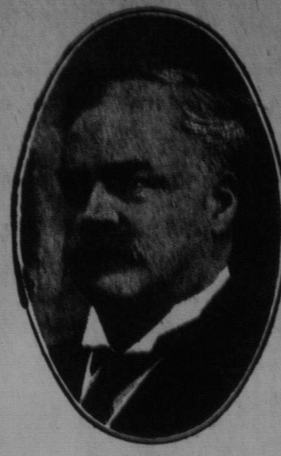


HON. J. D. HAZEN'S IMPROBANT SPEECH

MATTERS OF MOMENT DEALT WITH BY HON. J. D. HAZEN IN HIS RECENT ADDRESS IN COMMONS

Minister of Marine and Fisheries Reviews Events Transpiring During His Visit to England—The Canadian Soldier Not a Drinking Man—A Closer Union Between England and the Dominions—Approves of Conscription.



HON. J. D. HAZEN.

Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries, delivered an able address in the House of Commons on Friday last, reviewing the important events in his recent visit to England and France, and expressing himself as convinced of the necessity of taking steps along the lines of compulsory service in order to raise men to assist the fighting forces of the Empire in the present great struggle.

Hon. Mr. Hazen always makes a splendid impression, but his speech on Friday last was more interesting in view of the moment of the matters he dealt upon. It was the address of a statesman on questions of Empire wide import. Hon. Mr. Hazen said:

Replies To Pugsley.

The member for St. John says that the conference and the war cabinet were barren of result and he would have the country believe that the members of the government who were there were not engaged in serious work, that they were indulging in juketing trips about the country; that they were simply enjoying themselves in a social way and were not properly attending to the business of the country. I say, sir, that a member's insinuation was never made to this Parliament or to the people. In many respects I entertain a feeling of great regard for my hon. friend, but I say that it is not worthy of him to make such insinuations. A moderate demand for discipline is not only in the interest of the public, but it is also in the interest of the members of the government. Not only is it unworthy of him, but it is another evidence of the fact that he views the questions that come before this house only from the narrow standpoint of petty politics and that he cannot rise to the position of a statesman and discuss his issues in a statesmanlike, dignified and proper manner as is fitting in a great Parliament like this.

Let me tell my hon. friend that while I am in Ottawa during the session of the house, every moment of my time is occupied.

Worked Hard in Britain.

Any man who has been in a ministerial position, as many of my hon. friends whom I see opposite have been, know that no man can discharge the duties of a minister of the crown during a session of Parliament in ordinary terms, without devoting his whole thought, time and attention to the duties of that office. But busy as I have been during the past sessions, more especially since the war broke out, and during the time when extraordinary work has been thrown upon the department of which I am the head, I have done a greater amount of hard work, and more exacting work during a session of Parliament in Ottawa than I had to perform during the time I was in Great Britain. It was a pleasure to me when we got on the steamer at Liverpool on our way to Canada to obtain a few days' rest after the strenuous work that we had been undertaking. I am sure my hon. friend will realize how unfair it is that the suggestion should go abroad that men in responsible positions in the government, when upon a mission in a point of importance was as great as any that

the overseas Dominions being consulted and without all the information being placed before them, in the greatest advance in the way of linking together more closely for common support and for the objects that are dear to the hearts of the people throughout the British Empire that has occurred ever since the British Empire was first known to exist. Today we have the fact that on an equal footing, with Great Britain, perhaps, being primus inter pares—the first among equals—our statesmen, whatever party may be in power, are to meet year by year for the purpose of considering and discussing questions that are for the interest and promotion of the cause of Empire the world over. Could there have been taken any more effective step without sacrificing one single jot or iota of our independence, political freedom or political autonomy? I believe, when party passion disappears, and the events of this year are viewed dispassionately, they will be by the historian of the future, it will be admitted that one of the greatest steps ever taken for the advancement of the cause of the Empire was the uniting together more closely its component parts in bonds of friendship that in no way interfere with the independence of the Empire, has been taken in the history of the world, and it is one that I believe will, in the future, redound to the advancement of every part of this Empire and go a long way towards insuring the future peace of the world. I did not intend to speak tonight, and I do not want to trespass much upon the time of the hon. member, but I have another opportunity for taking up in detail the questions that have been referred to. The resolutions that were passed at the conference I do not intend to take up in detail, nor at any great length, but there are a few matters that have been referred to in the course of the debate this afternoon in regard to which I will crave a few moments of the indulgence of the house before I take my seat.

The Alleged Drinking Habits.

Reference was made in this house yesterday in connection with the drinking habits of the Canadian soldiers in the different camps in which they were placed in Great Britain. I want to tell this house in regard to that matter a few facts, more in detail than the matter was referred to by the Prime Minister this afternoon. At one of the meetings of the hon. member's committee, Edward Henry, chief of police of the city of London, appeared before us, and he told us that in what he spoke of as the London area, there were from three to four hundred thousand soldiers every night; that many of them were on leave from the trenches, and many of them were going to or coming from the front. As a result, the streets of London were frequented in large numbers by these men.

Some Actual Figures.

Most of them were men without relatives or friends, and many of them naturally sought human society and human comfort, and yet Sir Edward Henry told us that of the 300,000 or 400,000 men who were in the London area every night, the largest number of soldiers who had ever been arrested in one night for drunkenness was not more than twenty or thirty. I do not think anything could speak more strongly for the sobriety and good behavior of the soldiers in the present war than the figures I have given. I have always understood by Imperial federation was that there should be a closer drawing together in the bonds of union, friendship, sympathy and common support, the maintenance of a common Empire of Great Britain and its overseas Dominions and India and all the countries generally that make up the British Empire. I believe that the result flowing from that meeting of the war cabinet this year, with the declaration that no question of foreign policy will be embarked upon without

Clearer Union The Result.

Something has been said tonight about Imperial federation. I never knew exactly what was meant by Imperial federation, except this. There never was any hard or fast scheme to which any great body of people in this country committed themselves, and my understanding of the phrase Imperial federation did not necessarily imply an Imperial Parliament; it did not necessarily imply the sacrifice of a single iota of our autonomy or independence or liberty. If it did no man in this country would support such an idea for a single moment. What I have always understood by Imperial federation was that there should be a closer drawing together in the bonds of union, friendship, sympathy and common support, the maintenance of a common Empire of Great Britain and its overseas Dominions and India and all the countries generally that make up the British Empire. I believe that the result flowing from that meeting of the war cabinet this year, with the declaration that no question of foreign policy will be embarked upon without

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This average has during the past year or more neither increased or decreased, although at times there have been from forty to fifty thousand troops in the Shorncliffe area.

Copies of these enclosures have been forwarded to Sir Robert Borden and Colonel the Hon. Robert Rogers, with kind regards.

Yours faithfully,
S. H. B. 1314

Hon. D. Hazen, M. P., Minister of Marine and Fisheries for Canada, c/o Savoy Hotel, London.

I will now read General Steele's memorandum, which is based on the return furnished to him by Major L. N. R. P. Aeth, D.A.A., and Q.M.G., Shorncliffe Headquarters, Shorncliffe Command, 2nd May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding, Canadian Overseas Military Forces, Argyle House, 246, Regent Street, London.

With reference to the enclosed typewritten copy of a cutting from a Canadian newspaper, regarding wet canteens in Canadian camps in England, I have received several letters from prominent ladies in Canada relative to the matter of alcoholic temptations to which Canadian soldiers are subjected in this country.

With regard to the Canadian troops stationed in the Shorncliffe Imperial Command, under my jurisdiction, I would like to state that the percentage of drunkenness during the past two years has been very minute, at the present time, the average works out at only one-third per man per thousand per day. The present strength of Canadian troops in the Shorncliffe area is thirty thousand, more or less, and this strength of troops is equivalent to a civilian male population of military age of several hundred thousand. I can say without hesitation that drunkenness amongst the soldiers in this command is very much less than amongst civilians, and that, in a civilian population of the number stated above, the cases of drunkenness would be a higher percentage in comparison with that of the troops. Further, it is observed that, as is well known, a soldier is considered drunk when he is unable to carry out a military duty, whereas a civilian may be even more under the influence of liquor than a soldier but would not be considered intoxicated unless he was unable to walk without assistance or was a disturber of the peace.

I daily see reports from my D.A.A. & Q.M.G., a very capable officer and a good disciplinarian, under whose province such matters come, and find that these reports are quite satisfactory in every respect. Colonel Burns-Bigg, the town commandant of Folkestone, has told me personally that the behavior of the Canadian troops in Folkestone and vicinity has always been of high order, and that, in comparison with troops elsewhere, they are first in this respect. Ever since I have had the command, I have made it a special point to endeavor to reduce drunkenness to an absolute minimum and feel that efforts in this direction have been successful. At first, the percentage of drunkenness amongst the Canadian troops was higher, but for a long time past it has been as stated. At times there have been over forty thousand Canadian troops here, and cases of drunkenness have been just as rare as at present.

Regarding wet canteens, during the whole of my service I have been a strong advocate of dry canteens in camps in Canada and was the first officer to secure such; I have also made it a point to carefully watch

men are more strictly controlled, and sensible men can there secure good wholesome beer. No man, even if he desired (and the great majority have no wish to do so)—can secure more liquor than is good for him owing to disciplinary control and intoxication through the medium of wet canteens is not, therefore, possible.

Regarding public houses, these are also under the surveillance of the military police in addition to the civil police, and the town commandant (Continued on page 8)

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Dear Mr. Hazen:

Regarding the question of drunkenness among Canadian soldiers in England, I am enclosing herewith for your information, as requested by the Canadian ministers, a copy of a newspaper clipping from a Canadian paper, copy of letter which I have written to the general officer commanding Canadian overseas military forces in England, and a copy of memo from my D.A.A. and Q.M.G., showing the number and percentage of drunkenness for the month of April, 1917.

D. MEN CASU

London, May 23.—The ket was slightly higher fact that \$30,000,000 for tender on Friday amount than usual.

A moderate demand for early met today. Disc quiet.

The stock market ally firm with French, Brazilian bonds best in ton, though the war lo ad to harden.

Rubber, Oil and Pro were increasing sup vancing prices. Unmo can securities were bought.

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The new advance of brings them appreciably which, from the lower p less than ten miles ground traversed and y of over is difficult for s, and even with t advances, such as the objectives of the Italian A moderate demand for stained except by light specious nature.

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