

dian Mission for the marked services rendered by him on that occasion.

From the kindness, warmth and generosity of the reception met by the Canadian Mission at the hands of the Mayor, Mr. Meyer (who has since entered the French cabinet), of the City Council and citizens of Havre, one may judge of all those which awaited it in its entire circuit of France.

I have before my eyes a long list of Ministers, Senators, Members of Parliament, of Marshals and Generals, of Cardinals and Archbishops and Bishops, of Prefects, Members of the Judiciary, Mayors, Presidents of Chambers of Commerce, Universities, Syndicates of Initiative, of large industrial and financial concerns, of members of the French Academy, the Institute of France, of great newspaper editors—in fact, of personages leading in every walk of life, who have seized upon this opportunity to attest their affection and admiration and, above all, their gratitude for Canada. From them all, as from the humblest artisan or farmer, repeatedly came the fervent assurance that France would never forget Canada's sacrifices and noble deeds during the war, and that French mothers would ever lay prayers and flowers on the tombs of Canadian heroes.

If I cannot name all those whole extreme kindness towards the Canadian representatives deserves grateful acknowledgment, there are a few whom it seems impossible to pass without reference.

We are specially indebted to Mr. Poincaré for his invaluable support, to Mr. Dior and Mr. Le Trocquer for their constant and generous collaboration, and to Mr. Dal Piaz for his devoted, untiring and remarkably successful efforts. All the French Railways and their able managers, Mr. Ronssin and the members of the Executive Committee, are also entitled to our warmest appreciation.

I cannot but name also Mr. Doumergue, who, as president of the French Senate, received with the greatest hospitality the Mission at Nîmes. It was on this occasion, that he was tendered and acknowledged so gracefully the cordial message sent to him by the Speaker of this Hon. House. Mr. Doumergue has since become President of the Republic of France.

I feel that we also owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr. Herriot for his royal reception in the great city of Lyons, of which continuously for nineteen years he has been the Chief Magistrate and the greatest factor of progress. Mr. Herriot is at present Prime Minister of France.

The accommodation for the Canadian Exhibition was excellently ordered in every city,

and with the help of a large contingent of municipal police the multitudes pouring in and out of the Exhibition could be well cared for. It was indeed gratifying to hear the general expression of surprise at Canada's importance and development and specially at its diversified industrial production, revealed to the entire nation for the first time. The novelty of the train, the variety and attractiveness of its display, the excellence of the literature distributed, its growing success, and the sympathetic utterances of the speakers at the many receptions were given an enormous publicity by the entire press of France;

The more so as a new reference to the train was made at every stop. The longer the publicity, the greater the interest of the public. Before the train had more than started on its journey, the French government was severely criticized by certain centres which it had been found impossible to include within its itinerary. The train, so auspiciously inaugurated at Havre on the 16th of July last, completed its circuit of France on the 9th of October following. It held exhibitions in the following cities: Le Havre, Rouen, Amiens, Lille, Reims, Metz, Nancy, Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Montebeliard, Dijon, Clermont-Ferrand, St. Etienne, Lyon, Aix-les-Bains, Grenoble, Marseilles, Montpellier, Toulouse, Bayonne, Bordeaux, Angoulême, Limoges, Nîmes, Orléans, Tours, Nantes, Rennes, le Mans, Verdun, Besançon, Vichy, Valence-Avignon, Paris.

In the largest centres, it was conservatively estimated that often, at a given time, the enclosure of the Canadian Exhibition contained from 40,000 to 50,000 people. For the entire circuit, a daily estimate of the attendance brought it well over the 3,000,000 mark.

A few photos taken at many different points give an idea although inadequate, of these enormous gatherings. They have been placed on the table of the House for the information of any honourable member.

The mission gathered vivid impressions on this unique journey through one of the most beautiful lands in the world, and among one of the most attractive and sympathetic races of humanity. Deep emotions were often provoked by unexpected scenes and by words of fiery eloquence. To this day I can hear, amid an impressive silence, the grand Archbishop of Rouen, Primate of Normandy, quoting for the Canadians the welcoming words of St. Paul: "You are not strangers, nor even friends; you are citizens;" and also the tense accent of Mr. Mangin, the old and feeble mayor of Nancy, expressing thanks to the Canadian Red Cross for the gift of the ambulance which, as a simple fireman, he had

accompanied for months during the bombardment of his city. Mayor Mangin, batonnier of the bar of Nancy, over 70 years of age, lived for 3 years in a fire station, doing active duty day and night until his infirmities finally downed his courage. Picture to yourself the venerable Cardinal Luçon, 85 years old, standing bareheaded before the lamentable ruins of his Cathedral of Reims, stretching his arms in desolation towards the city destroyed before his eyes by the brutality of the Germans, and crying out in despair, "Of the 14,000 homes of my children, alas, only 14 have been spared!"

Will you follow the journey of the Mission through the desolation of the devastated departments—all valiantly and successfully struggling towards normal life—in its pious pilgrimage to St. Julien, Vimy, etc., in its reception in the Citadel of Verdun, and in all the great Cathedrals and Castles, milestones of glorious history; its vision of the infinite beauty and variety of scenery ever changing from the stern north to the sunny south and from the Alps to the Pyrenees. Imagine the surprise at being the guest of gentlemen thoroughly French, bearing the names of Farrel, O'Reilly, and James Carmichael, one being the Chief Justice of Rouen, the other the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Amiens. And what an opportunity for studying at close range the great industries, markets and ports of France, with a view to linking their activities up with our own.

Of this all, much should be said, but it is far beyond the scope of these remarks. May I be permitted, however, to impart to you the lesson which I have learnt through this exhaustive and unforgettable tour of France. It is this. No traveller knows France and the French people who follows the beaten path of the tourist. Let the traveller map for himself a new itinerary, and he can satisfy whatever his craving may be, in the domain of the beautiful, either in nature or in art, in the sphere of history, or even in that of simple repose and health restoration within some of the numerous renowned health resorts of France.

Let him but choose his path away from the journeying crowds hailing from the four corners of the earth, in order that he may really see the French nation in the rhythm of its usual life, and not a fantastical composite of all the travellers of the world.

After its complete circuit of France, the train entered Paris on the 9th of October. As some misunderstanding prevented its immediate admission to the Gardens of the Tuileries, the opportunity of sending it to Belgium was seized by the forelock. Indeed,

as the result of negotiations carried on by Mr. Laureys with the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, a gracious invitation to visit that country had been extended by the Belgian Government, cities and chambers of commerce, etc. Therefore, the train left Paris on the 16th of October for Mons, then successively for Charleroi, Namur, Liege, Anvers, Gand and Brussels. The trip to Belgium was also acknowledged as having been highly successful. Great interest and satisfaction were shown by the masses. Fitting receptions everywhere met the Canadian delegation, deep gratitude was expressed for Canada's share in the war, and felicitations and good wishes were extended for her endeavour in developing Belgo-Canadian trade relations.

The greeting at Mons was particularly moving. The relief of that city by the Canadian troops has left in the hearts of its citizens a very vivid sentiment of gratitude.

The capital of the Kingdom did great honour to the Mission, especially by a personal audience of His Majesty Albert the First, who paid the highest tribute to the Canadian armies of whose valour he had been a personal witness frequently in the course of the conflict. Practically during the entire trip through Belgium, the Canadian Exhibition was in charge of Mr. Laureys, and I think the highest praise is due to him for the manner in which he acquitted himself of an arduous and difficult task. Mr. Langlois is entitled to a generous share of these congratulations for his tactful and effective collaboration.

The train returned to Paris on the 30th of October, and within a few days the perambulating exposition had been set up in the magnificent frame of L'Orangerie in the Tuileries gardens. More than doubled in size by temporary buildings expressly erected for the purpose by the French Government, the space placed at our disposal measured about 120 feet by 300 feet. The first portion of the space was taken by two very large dioramas representing attractive Canadian scenery designed and erected under the supervision of Messrs. Tolmie and Turcotte of the Canadian Exhibition Branch of the Department of the Interior. By means of a rheostat which brought lights of different tints in and out of play, the gradual and slow change of illumination from dawn to sunset and moonlight, brought an alluring charm to these beautiful landscapes. The art and skill of Messrs. Tolmie and Turcotte in planning and constructing these dioramas cannot be too highly praised.