

THE BORDEN CABINET.—IX. THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.

by H. F. Gadsby.



Hon. J. D. Hazen.

BRITANNIA rules the waves, including the neat little Marcel waves in John Douglas Hazen's crisply curling iron grey hair. And this is only natural because the Minister of Marine and Fisheries comes of a long line of United Empire Loyalist ancestors who served their country as long as their country had a job left. Britons never will be slaves except to their sense of duty and if their duty carries a public office and a fat salary with it, so much the better for the Britons.

The Hazen family have undergone the usual changes of front experienced by well-born people who have succeeded in remaining on the continent of North America for two hundred and sixty-six years and never losing a cent by it. They have always been true to their principles and their best interests, and their best interests, as is often the case among the best families, generally ran parallel with their principles. This accounts for the change of front as between the original Edward Hazen the Roundhead who removed from Northumberland, England to Massachusetts in 1648 in order to escape the tyranny of Kings, and the Minister's more immediate ancestor John Hazen who removed from Haverhill, Massachusetts to Portland, New Brunswick, in 1775, in order to escape the "injustice of republics". It is only fair to the Minister's ancestors to point out that it took them a hundred and

twenty-seven years to right-about-face but when they did they made a good job of it.

In one hundred and twenty-seven years a thrifty family accumulates such a stake in the country that it cannot afford to countenance revolutions, so that the seventeenth century Hazen and the eighteenth century one were both equally loyal, each in his own way. The seventeenth century Hazen had to wash his hands of kings to get a fair start and the eighteenth century Hazen had to take a king on his hands again so that the family would not be set back to where it started. Such is the sobering influence of property on the proudest spirits. If a man is in danger of losing one Jack pot, he must sit in again where a bigger one awaits him. Loyalty like charity begins at home. The Hazens were loyal to the Hazens. As the poet says, to yourselves be true and you'll always get a piece of it, or words to that effect.

The eighteenth century Hazen made a good move when he came to New Brunswick. The family has stayed put ever since. It's a cold day in New Brunswick when there is no Hazen holding down a Government job. And, of course, their long suit is loyalty. They have nothing to say against loyalty as long as loyalty pays dividends. In the reciprocity campaign of 1911, John Douglas Hazen, true to the family tradition, made much ado of loyalty in default of other arguments and in due course loyalty produced its reward in the shape of a portfolio in the Borden Cabinet.

But this blushing honor was not enough. Premier Borden figured out that the Hazen loyalty was equal to any strain. Although the original Hazen had no use for kings and none of the other Hazens had been nearer a King of England than three thousand miles for two hundred and sixty years, the Premier reckoned it would be quite safe to take John Douglas Hazen across the water to London town and let him look at George the Fifth at close range. He felt that a family that had been piling up loyalty for two centuries and a half ought to have some outlet

for it. So John Douglas Hazen went along. It turned out a good play. Not only did John Douglas Hazen make all the foolish statements that a Premier must not make if he is to be regarded as a responsible being, but he looked the part of true Briton which Postmaster General Pelletier did not. Besides it gave the Premier a great sense of security to have Hazen there. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries could always be depended on for orthodox sentiment whereas "One Flag Looey" sometimes forgot his lines or sulked in a corner.

It was in one of his exalted after-dinner moods that Mr. Hazen made the statement that the Conservative victory in September 1911 had saved Canada from being handed over to the United States. This ultra-loyal announcement was received with loud cheers by the ultra-loyal Tories of England, who love the King so much that they are doing their best to overthrow His Majesty's Government in Ulster.

On the whole, Mr. Hazen did himself and Canada proud and came away with a reputation as a loyalist who would never allow the truth to stop him. Strangely enough, though he was a month in England and attended many dinner parties, he never once alluded to the Puritan Hazen, who founded the family fortunes and laid the corner stone of our Cabinet Minister's greatness, when he pulled out along with the other kickers on the *Mayflower*. A Puritan ancestor may look good enough for the Canadian Parliamentary Guide, but a Conservative Cabinet Minister cannot be expected to produce a skeleton that old at the Carlton Club.

Outside of that little jaunt to England, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has had little to do. Premier Borden took the job of navigating the three Dreadnoughts out of his hands and ran them on the rocks himself. So far as John Douglas Hazen's job goes Marine is a courtesy title. Premier Borden looks after any battleships that may be needed, the presumption being that there are enough fish to keep the Minister busy.