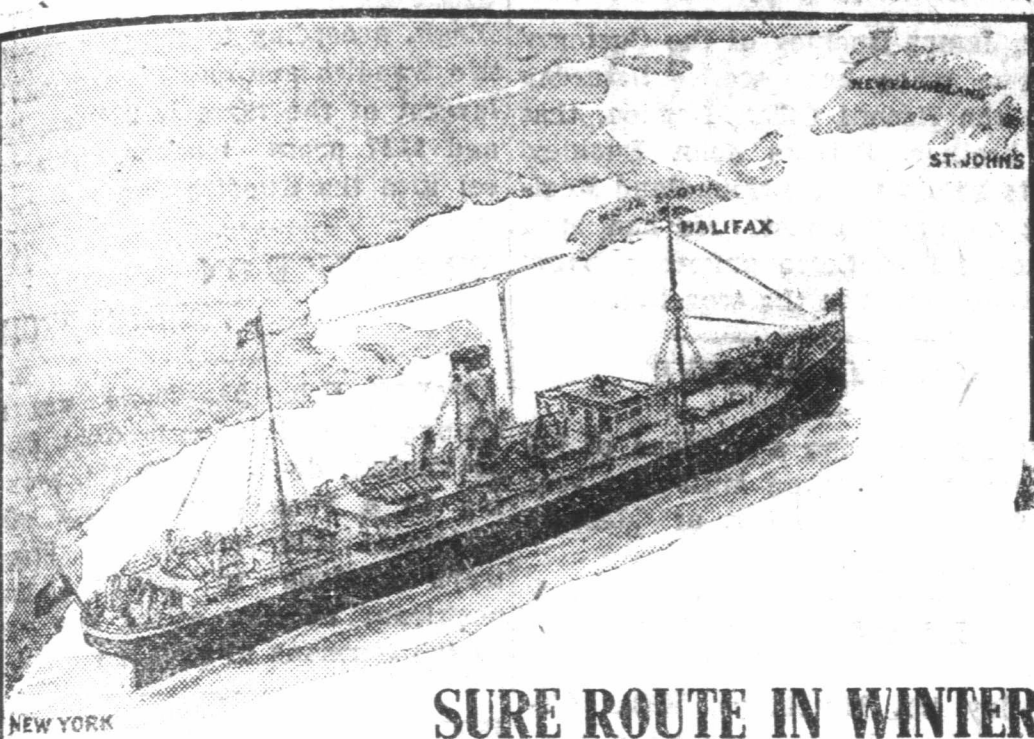


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Mr. Coaker Describes His Trip to Canada and United States

Is Invited as a Guest of the Speaker, on the Floors of the Canadian Parliament.—Tells of Manner in Which Members' Speeches are Reported.—Hears House Debate Divorce Question.—Confederation will Never be Carried Unless with the Expressed Wish of Our People.—He Meets Several of Canada's Leading Statesmen, and is Shown Every Courtesy by Them.

(Feb. 13th, continued)

I SPENT two hours in conversation with Mr. Watters and we discussed the labour problems of Canada and the probabilities of a Labor Party for Canada. Mr. Watters possess the confidence of the Labour Unions affiliated with the Labour Congress of Canada. He is not a politician but he is sincerely devoted to the cause he represents and is not an extremist. He would make an ideal member of Parliament, but he so far has refused to accept nomination.

He resides at Ottawa and is fast becoming a useful leader of labour as his connection with public men and industrial magnates must tend to provide him with an experience that few men are privileged to secure. He lived at Vancouver and was an inspector of concrete work, when he was elected to the position he now occupies and he made quite a financial sacrifice when he decided to accept the position and break up his home at Vancouver.

He would like for me to attend the Labour Congress and place my ideas of parliamentary representation and my experience in establishing the F.P.U. before the labour men of Canada. I could not promise him that I would be able to attend, but I hope some time to be able to accept his invitation.

Mr. Watters at any rate ought to be able to profit by our experience in Newfoundland in connection with the F.P.U. movement, for if we could accomplish so much, surely the labour men of Canada can accomplish something. In ten years I hope to see at least 50 labour members in the Canadian Parliament.

Feb. 14.—We drove through Ottawa in the morning to see the important residences. The three most interesting being, that in which Sir John McDonald lived while Premier, Sir Robert Borden's and ex-Premier Sir Wilfrid Laurier's. Mr. Collishaw was invited with me to lunch at the Rideau Club with the leading Liberal members of Parliament.

I entered the Banquet Room with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who sat at my right, E. M. McDonald of Sydney sitting at my left. E. M. McDonald proposed a toast in my honour. Sir Wilfrid Laurier seconded the toast. I responded in a 15 minutes speech, being the first time I ever replied to a toast at a banquet.

I attended the afternoon and evening sittings of Parliament and heard the whole of the debate on Mr. Northrup's motion for a re-consideration of the Divorce proceedings of Parliament. Mr. Northrup's speeches in opening and closing were very able. He far surpassed the other speakers. He is another such speaker as the late Mr. M. W. Furlong. The other speakers were Messrs. Lemieux, Marcell, Carroll, and the Minister of Justice.

The House divided on the motion, which was notable, as several Conservatives voted against the Government which opposed the motion. Mr. Northrup is a Conservative. Several Liberals voted with the Government. There was no fuss or applauding over the decision; each member stood in turn and a page named him, and the

clerk took down each name. All in favour voting first. Neither the Prime Minister or Sir Wilfrid Laurier took part in the debate. The Minister of Justice spoke for the Government.

It was the first division taken in the improvised Parliament building and will consequently be historic.

I occupied a seat on the floor of Parliament as the Speaker's guest, sitting at the right of Mr. Lemieux.

They have a splendid system of reporting debates. Every ten minutes the reporters change. They immediately dictate their records to a typewriter and a hand-sard containing the full speeches is printed the following morning and laid on each member's desk with the Order of the Day. An hour after delivery a member may revise his speech from a typewritten copy.

The Ministers get through replies very quickly. There is no attempt made to shelve questions on order paper. They are numbered, the Speaker names the number. If the Minister intends to reply orally, such is indicated on the order paper. If the reply is a written one, the Minister will say "answered," and a page will hand the reply to the clerk. If the question is not to be answered, the Minister presiding over the Department to which the question has reference, will say "stand," which means reply not ready. Each answer in full is printed in the Hansard.

Over 40 questions were so disposed of in about 15 minutes. There was 27 Notices of Motion on to-day's Order paper; two only were disposed of. The Notices of Motion take the form of a resolution.

The Prime Minister took an important part in replying to questions; he spoke very low. Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a few remarks in the way of queries, also in a low tone.

D. M. McKenzie of Sydney delivered the best speech on the Divorce resolution, from the Opposition side, although Mr. Lemieux, a brilliant FrenchCanadian, delivered a very good address and replied fully to the points advanced by the introducer of the motion.

Sir Thomas White's Budget took an hour to deliver. He read from manuscript. The whole matter of past revenue and expenditure, giving the fullest particulars and the Government's proposals for increased taxation the coming year were fully explained and all information necessary to grasp the whole financial situation of Canada was supplied in the speech.

The House was crowded, every member being present. The visitors' gallery was packed; Mr. and Mrs. Collishaw occupied seats in the gallery. I was invited as the Speaker's guest and sat on the Government side of the House, directly behind Sir Thomas White, and next to Hon. Mr. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

During the afternoon I met Sir Wm. McKenzie, the great Railway Magnate, who said he had tendered for the construction of the railway in Newfoundland which was awarded to the Reids at his figure. Hon. Mr. Meighen is my favourite on the Government side, amongst the younger men. He is

about 40 and the youngest member of the Cabinet. He represents the West. He knew quite a lot about Newfoundland. He mentioned having met P. T. McGrath and E. M. Jackman. He was fully conversant about F.P.U. matters. He is a great favourite of Premier Borden's, and many believe he will occupy the position of Prime Minister if his health holds good.

Another brilliant chap I met is Mr. McNab, Editor of the Montreal Daily Mail—his own paper—who for years edited the Montreal Daily Star.

Mr. F. B. McCurdy from Queen's, N.S., is another splendid type of man; he defeated Fielding at the last election. We are greatly indebted to E. M. McDonald of Sydney, who is one of the senior Liberal members. Mr. McDonald did all in his power to make our visit enjoyable and afforded us every facility to meet members of the House. Mr. McDonald is one of those naturally popular men, big hearted, obliging, and attentive to his duties. He is a leading Sydney lawyer.

There is no doubt about Sir Wilfrid Laurier being the most attractive, dignified and eloquent member of Parliament. Any stranger would select him by looking at the seated Parliament, and when one scanned the Government side of the House one would be sure to select Sir Robert Borden as the grandest personality and most attractive statesman amongst the Conservatives.

Canada has in her two leading statesmen, men possessing the very highest qualifications for their responsible and honoured positions—men who the nation are proud of and greatly reverence and esteem.

Sir Robert Borden is not a showy man; he is a deep thinker. His remarks are always full of sincerity and each word is carefully weighed and tactfully delivered. No one doubts his honour or integrity. He would never be a party to wrongdoing. He is loved by his party. His Cabinet works harmoniously; there are no differences amongst them. Canada possess one of the strongest Cabinets of any administration that ruled the Dominion.

Mr. Graham is Sir Wilfrid's right handed man and one well qualified to be such. Sir Geo. Foster is the Premier's right handed man, and Canadians hold him to be the most brilliant speaker in Canada. He is a tower of strength to the Government.

The Cabinet numbers 18 and is composed of very strong men. It would be impossible to select other men equally as strong in the whole Dominion. White, Fisher, Hazen, Doherty, Meighen, Rodgers and Roche are exceeding able men. On the Opposition side—Graham, Pugsley, Lemieux, Cavall, McLean, McDonald, Oliver, Pardee, Marcell and Murphy are able men, worthy of their positions in the House.

I express my thanks to the Speaker for the great favour extended me in permitting me to take a seat on the floor of the Chamber with the members during my visits to Parliament. This favour is extended to very few visitors, and by extending such an honour to me, it was as a member

of the Newfoundland Legislature, and an indication of the esteem which the Canadian Parliament possesses for the Old Colony.

Several of the leading men asked me about Confederation and assured me that both parties would be ready to grant Newfoundland any terms in reason that the Colony stipulated. They all consider the matter as one of sentiment, as their desire is to round of the Dominion, and make St. John's Canada's naval base, and the key to the Canadian Atlantic.

If I wanted to arrange terms of Confederation I have no hesitation in asserting that I could have secured terms that would make all former offers a mere flea bite in comparison. I assured all that Newfoundland was not willing to seek Confederation with Canada and the general opinion of Newfoundlanders was that the Colony could yet paddle her own canoe.

The Western representatives were just as eager for Confederation with Newfoundland as the Eastern members; but all were resolved that there could be no Confederation with Newfoundland except through the free will of the people expressed at the polls.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Robert Borden both assured me that Canada would not depart from that stipulation. I was glad to learn this, for it removes all chances of plotters and schemers to turn the Colony over to Canada by act of Parliament unless submitted to the electorate and approved by a majority of the electorate.

My visit to Ottawa and Parliament was an inspiration, and gave me an opportunity to realize the greatness of our great Sister Dominion and the splendid type of men selected to control the destinies of the nation.

(To be continued.)

France to Spend Enormous Sum On Artillery

What Finance Minister Ribot's Appropriations For 1916's Second Quarter Reveal

PARIS, Feb. 24.—An appropriation of 7,817,000,000 francs for the second quarter of 1916 is provided in a bill introduced in the chamber of deputies today by Alexandre Ribot, minister of finance. Of this amount, all but 657,000,000 francs is for military purposes. The amount provided in the bill is 330,000,000 francs more than was appropriated for the first quarter. Virtually all of this increase is for artillery and accessories. The estimates under this item have been increased to 2,450,000,000 francs.

Some economies have been made in other directions, so that the total for the quarter for artillery and munitions in reality is 450,000,000 francs more than the amount for the first three months of the year, thus indicating an enormous development in this arm of the service.

The appropriation for aviation is 82,800,000 francs. In expenditures for engineering material, 43,000,000 francs is cut off, and for horses, 62,000,000 francs. This is made possible by the fact that the importation from the United States and elsewhere have reached a point sufficient to permit of purchases on a less extensive scale.

It appears from the financial portion of the bill that France has advanced to Belgium 600,000,000 francs; to Serbia, 165,000,000; to Greece, 5,000,000, and to Montenegro, 400,000 francs.

The total appropriations from the beginning of the war in August, 1914, to June 30th, next, M. Ribot said, would be 44,415,000,000 francs, of which 32,449,000,000 was for purely military objects.

Interest on the public debt amounted to 3,200,000,000 francs, while allowances to the wives and families of soldiers, unemployed, and related expenses for social welfare amounted to 5,050,000,000 francs.

M. Ribot made various references to the United States. He said up to December 31st France had realized in cash \$7,240,000 from the Franco-British loan, of which on that date there remained in cash in New York \$35,628,900. Treasury bonds at the end of December sold in Great Britain and the United States totaled 164,000,000 francs.

M. Ribot referred to the ease with which the treasury had been able to meet all requirements.

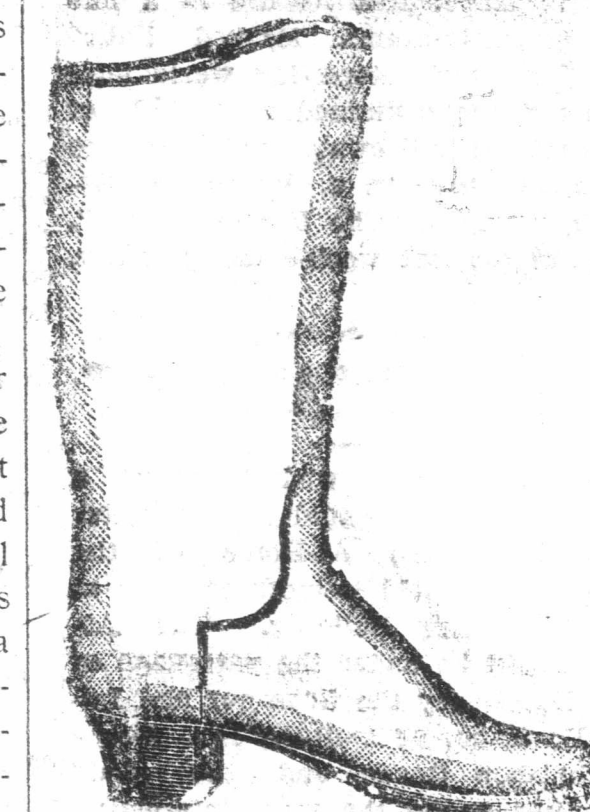
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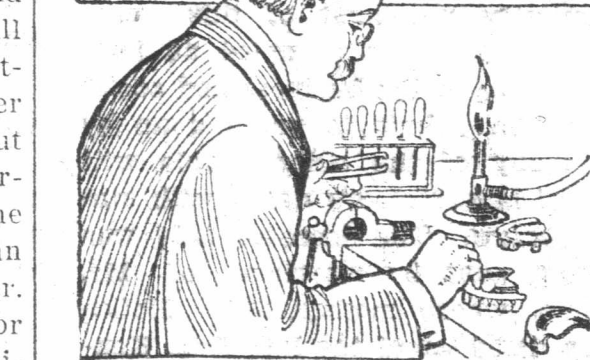
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