

I do not wish to take up unduly the time of the house; in fact I do not feel that I am capable of making any lengthy or extensive remarks, but I should like to give the house and the country a brief review of the trip which my colleagues and myself made to England in September. May I express to the Prime Minister and those of his cabinet who assisted us in making this journey to England our thanks for their intervention and for making the trip possible. I should like to thank the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power) for the valuable suggestions which he made to me during a call which I made upon him just prior to going overseas. Last, but not least, may I publicly give recognition to the civility and courtesy which my colleagues and I received at the hands of Mr. Massey, our high commissioner in London, and his charming wife. I think one of the best lunches that we had over there was the one we had at the officers' club, which I think is on Cockspur street, as a guest of Mrs. Massey, when she treated us to good old-fashioned Canadian pork and beans. Mr. Massey found himself perhaps a little restricted because our journey to England had been delayed and he had made other arrangements, but I do want to make this public recognition of his kindness to us while we were overseas.

Through the Canadian headquarters and the good offices of Mr. Massey it was made possible for us to meet all the members of the British cabinet whom we felt we should meet or could meet in the limited time at our disposal. Mr. Massey was good enough to introduce us to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, Lord Cranborne, and from then on we had a succession of interviews with important cabinet ministers, some of which I shall mention and some of which I shall not. We had the high privilege of a most satisfactory interview with the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill. Without question he is the national hero of the British people. Having listened to him speak in the House of Commons on September 30, I feel certain that he is giving the leadership that the British people require at this time.

We had the good fortune of having an interesting conversation with a former resident of my province, Lord Beaverbrook, the present Minister of Supply. This interview was just on the eve of his departure for Moscow. He told us many interesting things. We had the good fortune to have a conversation lasting more than an hour and a half with Mr. Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour. He told us in some detail of the activities of organized labour in Great Britain, and explained the situation which confronted the

nation at the time the national government was formed, as well as the situation as it is to-day. I was greatly impressed by the strength of this dynamic gentleman, as well as with the strength of Lord Beaverbrook. The latter seems to get things done with such celerity as actually to astonish the British civil servant.

We had most interesting interviews with the service ministers, if I may use the term which we have developed in Canada, especially with the Secretary of State for War, an outstanding young man who recently joined the ministry and is now in charge of the war office. He has a most realistic idea of the conditions which confront that great nation. He gave us a great deal of information with respect to the British army at or prior to the outbreak of the war, after Dunkirk, and at the present time. We also had the opportunity of an interview with the foreign secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, and with the three chiefs of staff.

These interviews lasted for nearly a week, and as a result of them we acquired a mass of information. In nearly every case it was distinctly understood that the information imparted should be confidential, and confidential it shall remain. Had it not been so understood, we could not have obtained as clear a picture as we did during the course of the ten or a dozen interviews which we had during that first week in London. This means that I cannot give the authority for any opinions which I may express about the position in England, nor should I be called upon to give chapter and verse as proof of any assertion I may make. I assume that this will derogate from the value of the impressions or the expressions of opinion which I may give on this or on other occasions. Be that as it may, I wish to make it perfectly clear that any expressions of opinion, or statements of fact on my part are the result of impressions that were gained in many quarters and are not to be considered as binding upon anyone over there. They will be mine and mine alone, and I must assume responsibility for them.

As a result of the kindness of Major-General Price Montague and Air Commodore Stevenson we were given every facility to see the Canadian corps and the Canadian divisions in England and some of our Canadian flyers. We came away greatly impressed by the Canadian divisions, especially the first division, which has been over there now for nearly two years. We had the advantage, my colleague and I, of a long and earnest conversation with General McNaughton. May I say, as a result of expressions which I heard fall from the lips