

FAR FLUNG FOSTER

Globe Trotting and
Sight Seeing His
Specialty

His Department a Standing Joke—
As Much Red Blood as a
Pressed Fish—Same Influence
in His Party as a
Phonograph

(H. F. Gadsby in Canadian Liberal
monthly)

Introducing the Minister of Trade
and Commerce, better known as Far
Flung Foster.

The British Empire is far flung,
but it is not far enough flung for
George Bulas Foster to fling himself
in. The orb of the earth is his
field. One of his first acts when he
became Minister was to dismiss Mr.
P. C. Larkin and appoint himself
Canada's representative on the Im-
perial Trade Commission which was
to be a non-political body. One reason
for dismissing Mr. Larkin was that
he is a Liberal; another was that
Foster needed a roving charter
that would take him away from Ot-
tawa; still another was that it
would give him an opportunity for
globe-trotting and sight seeing at
the expense of the country while
calling the Junkets by the name of
duty.

Any one of these three reasons
would have been enough for Foster,
but three reasons of a kind beat two
pairs so the result is that he has
been away from Ottawa in distant
parts of the world for three-quarters
of his time, and his Department of
Trade and Commerce, which might
have been made a fine instrument of
Canadian expansion, is a standing
joke. The office gives him a place to
hang his hat, a chair to sit in, an
excuse for foreign travel, emolu-
ments of ten thousand a year and a
prince's expense account. That's
about all Foster wants out of it. As
for Cabinet meetings they can go
hang, Foster's away in far Cathay
avoiding the Canadian winter.

At the back of this wanderlust is
pique. You will remember that Foster
had his fling once before in the
"Nest of Traitors." He had it
again in the affairs of the Union
Trust Company which were the sub-
ject of a legal investigation. So
when his party came to power, in-
stead of making him premier, they
side tracked his spotted past in the
Department of Trade and Commerce
and Far Flung Foster instead of
trying to live it down by good
deeds flung out in a rage and has
been circling round and round the
world like a maddened equator ever
since. The only time he cares to be
on the spot is when his leader Bor-
den is seeking health in Virginia
and then he loves to be Acting Pre-
mier on the off chance that the dear
fellow will not get better. Speaking
generally, however, Foster's motto
is that you can always go home
when there's no place else to go to.

As far as the cartoonist can do it
in a one column cut, he has pictured
Far Flung Foster with the graces of
travel still clinging to him. You
notice the cap with the button, the
badge of a mandarin of the first
class—he picked that up in China.
The kimono is the result of his so-
journ in Japan. The boomerang is a
souvenir of his Australian visit.
He is playing on a samisen. The pine
apple typifies his West Indian tri-
umphs. The cross-legged attitude is a
prevailing Eastern custom. These
and a few literary impressions of
Corea and other countries with
which he entertains Canadian Clubs
here and in the United States are
about all Foster brought home with
him. Trade and things like that he
leaves to professional crummers—he
scorns to soil his hands with it.
They say travel is a great educator
and yet with all his travel Far
Flung Foster has not learned to have
a meek and lowly spirit. He hates
his colleagues like cold boiled veal.

Since he foresees reciprocity in
1911, he has been telling audiences
that he saw the Underwood tariff
coming and that's why he behaved
as he did. Without confronting him
with his speeches of 1911 or calling
him a liar, we will say that he has
a useful gift of talking his memory
to sleep, and let it go at that. Re-
cent utterances indicate that even
now he has only a stepmother's love
for lower food taxes, his idea of
helping the cost of living being al-
most anything so long as it does
not interfere with the tariff.
He has not had the nerve to deny
what he said about the Canadian

navy in 1909, when he spoke and
voted, as did Premier Borden and
the Conservative party in the House
of Commons, as in fact Parliament
did unanimously, in favour of what
afterwards became the Laurier pol-
icy. Faced with his words the best
this brazen old cynic can do is
shrug his shoulders and say he has
had a change of heart.

This brings us back to his picture
again. Did you ever see sadder whis-
kers? For a time while hope beamed
and there was a chance that Premier
Borden would not fit there was a
hectic flush on Far Flung Foster's
cheeks and a bring light in his eye
and he took to trimming his whisk-
ers to a point, but as hope faded
he grew careless, so to speak, and
presently he began to gad about like
the Wandering Jew. 'Poor Foster!
He started as a free trader and he
swallowed that. He rose to notice
as prohibitionist and he had to
swallow that to get into Sir John
Macdonald's Cabinet. He had some
business scruples and he had to
swallow them in the course of a
short, but disastrous business car-
eer. All the way through the
wretched man has had to swallow his
opinions. Eating crow is no fun. If
the man looks sick put it down to
that.

The trouble with Foster is that he
has about as much red blood as a
preserved fish. His party stands for
him because he is a fluent speaker.
Being a voice and nothing else he
has the same influence in the party
as a good phonograph. If the party
were so unfortunate at this moment
as to lose Premier Borden and had
to choose between Bob Rogers and
Far Flung Foster as his successor I
think Bob would land it.

Christmas Candy

Perhaps none of the Christmas
presents that you give will be more
acceptable than boxes of home-made
candy, which everyone likes. But be
sure that the boxes are clean and
new, and that they are prettily
wrapped. Try wrapping a few with
white tissue paper and tying them
with silver tinsel which may be
bought for a trifle. Under the cord
at the top of each slip a bit of
holly or even "pigeon berry" vine
from your woods, if the holly is
not handy. In case no greenery at
all is available a Santa Claus or
Holly Stamp stuck on top by way
of ornament will do. These stamps
can be bought at any stationery
store in five-cent and ten-cent pack-
ages. Below find recipes for making
a number of confections that will be
found admirable for filling the boxes.

Stuffed Cluster Raisins:—Break in-
to clusters of three or four the
large bunches of Valencia raisins,
then remove the stones, being care-
ful not to snap the stems. Press
into each the half of an almond.
Boil half a cup of white sugar with
a tablespoonful of cold water until
it will thread, and flavor with a
few drops of lemon juice. Dip the
raisins in this glaze, and let harden
before packing.

Ginger Bombs:—Make a fondant
as follows: To one pound sugar add
one cup water, bring to a boil and
stir until sugar is dissolved but no
longer, then slowly boil without
stirring until the syrup will form a
soft ball when a little is dropped in
cold water. Remove the syrup at
once from the fire, and pour it on
an oiled platter. When cool enough
to let the back of the hand rest
upon it without burning, stir it
rapidly in one direction with a wood-
en spoon until it is creamy. Sprin-

kle the bakeboard with fine sugar
and knead the cream on it. When
smooth and soft put in a bowl and
cover with a wet napkin. To make
the ginger bonbons melt some of the
fondant in a bowl over boiling
water and add preserved ginger
(which may be bought) cut into
small pieces. When thoroughly mixed
with the fondant drop from a tea-
spoon on oiled or paraffin paper.
The rest of the fondant may be
made into small balls and dipped in
melted chocolate, or pressed as a
stuffing into dates.

Cocoanut Dates:—Mix together a
quantity of shredded cocoanut, six
tablespoons powdered sugar, and
about a tablespoonful each of white
of egg and water, or just enough to
make a stiff paste. Wash and stone
some dates and use this mixture as
a filler.

Brown Taffy:—Dissolve a pound
and a half of brown sugar in a lit-
tle water, add a quarter of a pound
of butter and boil until it cracks
when tested in cold water. Add one-
half teaspoonful of cream of tartar
and vanilla to taste. Pour all on a
buttered platter and when cool pull
until tight. Cut the twists in inch
lengths.

Peanut Dates:—Remove the stones
and fill the dates with chopped pea-
nuts or almonds; then close and roll
them in powdered sugar.

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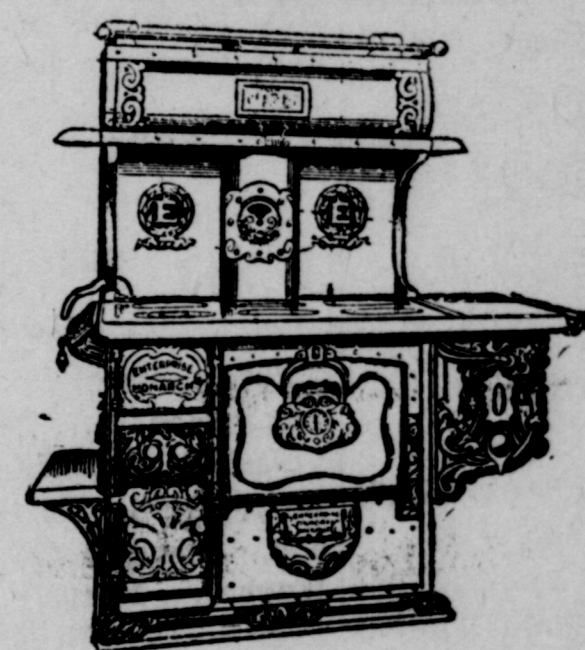
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