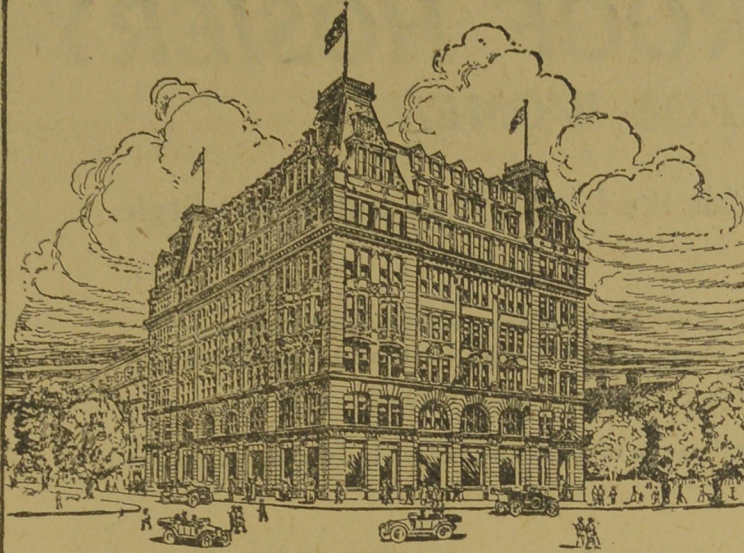


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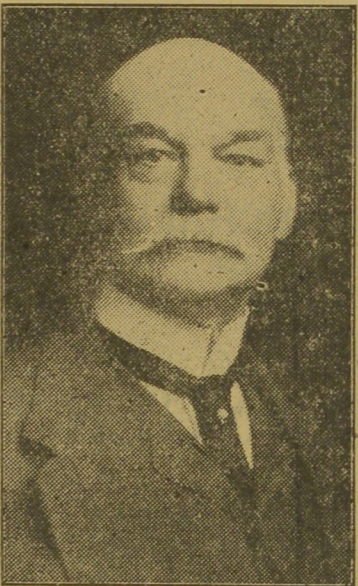
GOOD SERVICE IS BEING RENDERED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA

(By O. F. Brothers in Listening Post.)

"Out of sight, out of mind," is a proverb that applies to the attitude of the average man and woman unless they have special reasons for remembrance. That this is the case in regard to the work that is being carried on for Canada in the Old Country by the Hon. Peter C. Larkin, is I am afraid, only too true. In fact, the doings of Canada's High Commissioner go almost unrecorded in the daily press of the Dominion. Yet Mr. Larkin, during his two years of office, has done well by his country.

It was my privilege while in London last year to see something of the work of the High Commissioner's Office, and readers of The Listening Post will, I think, be interested to know a little about the task their representative is faced with.

Since Mr. Larkin took over his duties, the activities of the office have increased in a remarkable manner, and today it more nearly than ever before performs the functions as visualized in the memoranda issued by Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Leo-



HON. P. C. LARKIN.

ard Tilley and Sir Charles Tupper in its relation to the British Government, the other Dominions, India and the European countries.

In past years the office had assumed more or less the character of a "post office" to transmit communications between Canada and the Government in London, and a medium for the handling of buying orders referred to London by the several "spending" Departments at Ottawa, and the social or ceremonial functions which take place from time to time in London.

This status has changed and the place Canada now takes in Empire and International affairs has created an entirely new position for the High Commissioner, and enlarged the scope of, and increased the importance of the office in London. That this is so is greatly due to the fact that by Order-in-Council No. 330, dated 10th February, 1922, all the activities of the Canadian Government in London were placed under the High Commissioner.

Summary of Work.

Before going into details of the work it may be appropriate to first summarize some of the work now dealt with in the office:

(a) Direct discussion on Canadian questions with British Government Departments, e. g., 1. Colonial Office, 2. War Office, 3. Admiralty, 4. Treasury, 5. Department of Agriculture, 6.

Air Ministry, 7. Pensions Ministry, 8. Board of Trade, etc.

(b) International affairs arising out of the League of Nations; Annual Conferences; Committee Meetings; Signature of Protocols, etc.

(c) Discussions, conferences and administrative action with European Governments arising out of Trade Credits or Loans made to such countries, e. g.,

1. Revitalizing Credits to: France, Belgium, Roumania, Italy and Greece.

2. Supervision and collection of debt due by Belgium on account of purchase of surplus Canadian Army stores.

Note: The debts of Belgium and France fall due this year, and collection will be made or new agreements negotiated.

(d) Standing Committees, or "Ad hoc" Committees for discussion of questions of interest in Empire affairs, e. g., British Empire Exhibition, Imperial Institute, Imperial Communications, Imperial War Graves Commission, The Pacific Cable Board.

(e) General supervision and co-ordination of all Canadian Government activities in Great Britain and Ireland. Publicity; Exploitation of Resources; Capital Investment enquiries; Collection of (and transmission to Canada of) information on general matters, financial or economic.

(f) The innumerable functions of Government, public or semi-public character, which must be attended.

Such briefly is the scope of the duties that fall to the lot of Mr. Larkin and his hard-working secretary, Mr. Lucien Pacaud, K. C., who did splendid service in the House of Commons for many years until his appointment to London in 1922.

I now propose to deal with a few of Mr. Larkin's outstanding accomplishments. When he arrived in England, one of the first tasks he was faced with was that of endeavouring to remove the embargo on our cattle. This had been a grievance with Canadians for some thirty years and, although several efforts had been made towards its removal and a promise given at the Imperial Conference in 1917 that this should be done as soon as shipping conditions permitted, the position had not changed. Within ten months after Mr. Larkin took office the embargo was removed on all but our breeding cattle, and judging from articles now appearing in the British press it looks as though the Government would shortly have to admit our breeding stock.

Settling Old Debts.

In April 1922, when Mr. Larkin assumed office, the Imperial Government owed Canada about one hundred and thirty million dollars, part of the monies lent by Canada to Great Britain during the War. Notwithstanding the efforts that had been made during the four years following the War, all payments had been refused unless Canada would take sterling a par which, of course, would have meant settling our debt at seventy cents on the dollar, for sterling was then at 3.95. Within a few weeks after Mr. Larkin's arrival, not only was the Treasury persuaded to pay their debt in Canadian dollars, but we received five million dollars in cash and an agreement was made to pay five million dollars a month, which agreement was carried out so that our money was soon back to par. Then there was an arbitration on the

settlement of the whole war debt to Canada amounting to twelve hundred millions, which took a great deal of time and energy. Now it is understood that a general agreement has been reached with the British Treasury in respect of all outstanding matters and payments due to Canada under this new agreement were made on March 28th.

Other outstanding questions are Canada's post-war loans to Roumania and Greece. Terms for the repayment of these have now been arranged, and in this respect we are in a most satisfactory position.

Roumania was persuaded to place an export tax on grain, which tax has been earmarked to pay the interest and principal on their debt to us which amounted to some twenty-four million dollars. The interest on this loan amounts to approximately nine hundred and sixty thousand dollars per annum which is being regularly met. The principal is payable in forty years through the operation of a sinking fund of 2½ per cent semi-annually, beginning in 1927.

The Greek Debt has been funded and we are to receive eight million dollars in 5 per cent Bonds. These Bonds are a general obligation to the Hellenic Government, and in addition a lien has been secured on taxes collected on certain Government monopolies as well as, Customs. These monies are earmarked to pay the interest and principal of the Debt. This arrangement came into effect on January 1st last, and half-yearly the Greek Government will pay two hundred and eighty-two thousand dollars, which payments will extinguish the Debt, principal and interest, in twenty-five years. Last year the Greek Government paid to Canada \$450,000.

Trade Matters.

Coming to trade matters, for a long time past there has been discrimination against Canadian flour in regard to ocean rates; not only was an extra four or five cents a hundredweight charged on Canadian flour shipped from Canadian ports than was charged on American flour from United States ports, but if Canadian flour was shipped via American ports the same discrimination existed. This played the Canadian millers at a serious disadvantage as compared with their American competitors. At the request of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Larkin took this matter up with the Imperial Shipping Committee and after a certain amount of publicity was given to the matter the Steamship Lines altered the rate, not by lowering the rates on Canadian flour but by raising the rates on American. While this is to some extent satisfactory, as it places the Canadian and American millers on the same footing, it is considered that the flour rates are too high as compared with those on wheat, and the High Commissioner is continuing his negotiations with the Imperial Shipping Committee in the hope that something can be done to put this on a fairer basis.

Before long all the Canadian Government activities in London will be established in their new home. There is no doubt that the Union Club building which has been purchased by the Government and possession of which they have just obtained is the very finest site in London. It is situated on one side of the "Hub of the Empire", Trafalgar Square. Complaints were always being made of the dingy quarters occupied by the High Commissioner in Victoria Street, but it was not very long after Mr. Larkin arrived before these were removed temporarily to brighter and altogether more attractive offices in Pall Mall. Every one will appreciate how desirable it is, however, for all the Dominion Government's activities to be assembled under one roof. Australia, South Africa and New Zealand have their own buildings and it has long been felt that Canada should have a

GREAT BRITAIN EXPECTS SLOWING DOWN IN TRADE

London, June 7—Trade prospects in Great Britain are not rosy, and no great movement can be looked for during the coming three months. This is the opinion of experts of the Federation of British Industries, who closely watch the movements of the business "barometer."

In a report sent out to hundreds of traders and manufacturers, the federation says: the marked improvement in trade during the last three months is nearing culmination, and as soon as the impetus of the movement has spent itself there may be a slight reaction. Abolition of the McKenna duties will plunge vital industries into a condition that is likely to ruin their programs for years to come.

"HONEYBALL MELON" IS NEW FRUIT

Washington, June 7—Plant wizards of the West have produced a new hot weather delicacy in the "honeyball melon," the Department of Agriculture announced today.

The succulent gourd is a cross between the Texas "cannonball" canteloupe and the California "honeydew" melon. It is perfectly round, averages five inches in diameter and the meat is very similar to the honeydew, though the rind is netted like the canteloupe.

The chief virtues of the new product are its delicate flavor and its durability. The melon can be shipped to any section of the country without refrigeration. About 1,250 carloads will be available in July.

home of her own, worthy of her status.

In conclusion mention should be made of the fact that the High Commissioner has established himself in a very beautiful house overlooking Kensington Gardens. Besides the opportunity which this gives him to entertain prominent Canadian visitors at his house, Mrs. Larkin is able, at the receptions she holds there every week, to give Canadians in London the chance of meeting each other in surroundings which have a warm and homely atmosphere.

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