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EX-PRESIDENT TAFT AT BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

Discusses the League of Nations and Other Matters — Made an Honorary Member of the Canadian Bar Association — Distinguished Men in Attendance — New Brunswick Well Represented at the Convention.

Ottawa, Sept. 1.—Fine speeches which dwell on the greatness of British institutions and the fraternal relations between Britain, United States and Canada were heard today at the opening meeting of the Canadian Bar Association. New Brunswick is well represented, including a delegation from St. John. The Speakers were: His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, Governor General of Canada; Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, K.C., Attorney General of Saskatchewan; Sir James Aikins, K. B., LL.D., M.A., K.C., President of the Canadian Bar Association and Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and Hon. William Howard Taft, ex-President of the United States.

Perhaps the most salient feature of the oratory were the words of Sir James Aikins, when he spoke of the close ties of kindred and interests between Canada and the United States.

Of America, But Not Americans

Interrupted by continuous cheers he said: "We are of the British Empire an autonomous nation in it. We are also of America, but are not Americans. While cordial friendship has existed between us and them for over a century, there had also existed an impenetrable barrier of sovereign statehood as deep as an abyss, as high as heaven, invisible, intangible but which the honor, the faith, the mutual respect of both nations regard as holy over which no shodden foot may pass."

"With them, we, the representatives of the British Empire hold and will hold against all other states this continent for our common civilization from the Rio Grande to the North Pole."

"If we are menaced by the unrepentant forces of Central Europe shoulder to shoulder we will face eastward; if by Asians we will right about and march westward; if by any other common foe we will stand back to back, but never face to face in fraternal strife."

The Duke of Devonshire said that as British institutions had carried the empire and the world safely through the Great War, they would be sufficient to carry it also through the trying days that were now present and that lay ahead of them.

His Excellency the Governor General who formally opened the proceedings was accompanied by Viscount Cave, Hon. William Howard Taft, Lord Richard Neville, Sir Auckland Geddes, Sir James Aikins, Captain, the Earl of Dalkeith, while a number of ladies, who are now guests at the Government House, were also in attendance.

In addition the following distinguished men were present: Sir Robert Borden, Hon. Mr. Rowell, Hon. Martin Burrell, Sir Douglas Hazen, Mr. Justice Duff and Mr. Justice Mignault, of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Orde, Henry B. F. MacFarland of Washington (D.C.) and many others.

In addition to the visitors from Britain and the United States, Sir Robert Borden occupied a seat on the platform.

New Brunswick Speakers

Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, K.C., Attorney General for Saskatchewan and a native of New Brunswick, made a brief reply to His Excellency.

Mr. Turgeon is one of the most eloquent speakers in all Canada and after thanking His Excellency for his illuminating address dwelt on British institutions in Canada. He pointed out that these institutions had been handed down to us in this country in the form of a written constitution, a document which conferred on Canada for all time the institutions of the motherland. Moreover this charter of the nation divided these institutions as between the federal and the provincial authorities. It was this document that a great part of the work of the lawyers of this country was based upon.

Hon. W. H. Taft

Speaking before the Canadian Bar Association at luncheon, Hon. William Howard Taft dealt with the constitutional aspects of the League of Nations. "I do not think," he declared, "that those people who contend against the power of the United States to make contracts and enter into obligations with other nations fully realize how completely such a construction of the constitution would relegate our great nation and government to the limbo of infants and persons irresponsible who may not undertake obligations that are binding upon them."

"What are the powers of the United States as a neighbor, in making

treaties?"—that, said Mr. Taft was the question in which Canadians were interested and the question which he proposed to deal with.

Premier Martin of Saskatchewan, who was in the chair, in welcoming Mr. Taft, referred to him as "one of the greatest authorities on jurisprudence and international law on this continent." He remarked humorously that Mr. Taft had now been appointed to sit on a Canadian commission; and that it would be a good thing for Canada to do away with certain features of our naturalization laws so as to make the visitor a citizen of the dominion.

Sir Douglas Hazen's Motion

Following Mr. Taft's speech Sir Douglas Hazen rose to move that the representative of the American Bar Association be made an honorary member of the Canadian Bar Association. The motion was carried with enthusiasm by the meeting. Mr. Taft is a summer resident of Canada.

Mr. Taft said he was sure that the League of Nations was a question of common interest, though possibly not of common agreement.

Dealing with the power of congress the speaker said that there was at present before that body a resolution providing for the declaration of peace if the country with which the United States was at war was willing for peace, congress had the power to declare that peace. Ceasing to fight and acquiescing in a state of peace would result in the attainment of peace. Congress however, had no power to bind any future congress.

The treaty-making power of the president and the senate said Mr. Taft had been the subject of contention from the very beginning of the United States. Congress held the purse strings, and if a treaty was consummated involving the expenditure of money it sometimes felt called upon to protest. Congress however had never refused to perform the obligations entered into by the treaty making powers of the nation.

What was the covenant of the League of Nations, asked Mr. Taft. It was a partnership agreement made up of two kinds of stipulations, the first of which were self-restraining. They bound the nations to certain restraints calculated to prevent or reduce the chances of war. Then there were agreements, directed towards penalizing nations which failed to observe these restraining covenants. These penalties must be imposed by the united action of the members as there was no executive or court with the power to enforce them. There was nothing but conscience and good faith to see that they were carried out. The strength of the League of Nations declared Mr. Taft must depend on the spirit of co-operation and good faith. If that was lacking, it did not matter how strong the conventions were made, the league must fail.

Presidential Election

Mr. Taft said that the result of the presidential election in the United States would not necessarily mean the decision of the people of the United States regarding the League of Nations. There were other issues involved in the election. It was claimed that to enter the league the United States would have to part with some of her sovereign powers. This contention, he disputed. The fact of the matter was that a sovereignty which could not enter into an agreement with other nations was a minor and ought to have a guardian. Any nation living with other nations must have the power to enter into agreements with them. A sovereign had the right to enter into agreements, and he also had the right to break them if his conscience would permit it. It would be a great interference with the usefulness of the United States and also the usefulness of her neighbors if the United States might not enter into agreements with other nations to perform certain acts in consideration of their performing the same or other acts.

Moose Visits Devon.

About twelve o'clock today a calf moose visited North Devon in search of a little diversion. Although he did not travel the main street he came within sight of all who cared to look and after walking around for a while and sizing the situation up he took to the woods and was not seen again.

J. A. Sample of Moncton is at Windsor Hall.

Miss Anna L. Hallett is a guest at Windsor Hall.

Miss E. Davis of New York is a guest at the Windsor Hall.

OPERA HOUSE

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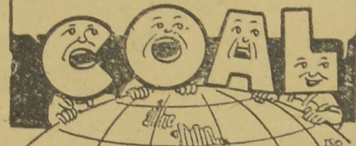
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