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Hon. Mr. McNair's Speech.

DURING the present session the members who represent York County in the Legislature, Ernest W. Stairs and H. Ralph Gunter, made splendid constructive contributions to the debates on matters which were before the House. At yesterday afternoon's session the senior member for York, Hon. J. B. McNair, K.C., Attorney General and Acting Minister of Health and Labor, made one of the best contributions to the debates of the House which has been heard during the life of the present Legislature. Mr. McNair's address which was well delivered, showed the result of careful thought backed by a culture, which made it pleasant to hear.

After replying to the Leader of the Opposition and dealing with the record of the old Government which was driven from power in 1935 by an indignant public, Mr. McNair took up the matter of New Brunswick and its British connection. He stated that he would maintain the link which binds us to the British Empire, the severance of which might eventually make Canada into the Spain of America. He opposed the abolition of appeals to the Privy Council, and struck out at those who would remove the charter of this province from the custody of Westminster and endanger the position of New Brunswick as an independent self-governing unit of the Empire sovereign within its sphere of its Legislative powers, and place it in a position of subordination to the Dominion Parliament. Mr. McNair referred to the efforts that had been made in certain quarters to change the Union Jack so far as Canada was concerned. He thought there were heavier and mightier questions for us to consider at the present time than the matter of changing our flag which had been our protection and had proven a mighty symbol in the past.

Mr. McNair accused the Leader of the Opposition of openly lending his efforts to foment and encourage the strikes on the Miramichi and in the Minto area from which the industrial life of New Brunswick had suffered during the past months. Mr. McNair's speech contains many matters which are of interest to the people of this province. The perusal of this speech is worthy of careful consideration.

Bound By A Common Aim.

MORE than ordinary interest attaches to the introductory address of the new United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James because of its bearing on the threatening international situation. It was an enlightening message to the world, as well as Great Britain, approved by the State Department at Washington, and forwarding in more explicit terms the policies recently enunciated by the Secretary of State.

If the historic Pilgrim Club's audience expected a repetition of "the usual diplomatic niceties" and nothing else it was disappointed. Ambassador Kennedy preferred to take for granted recognition of "the common heritage and the glorious traditions of the English-speaking peoples," but he expressed the same thought more revealingly. "Our two countries enjoy a relationship which is unique among the nations of the world. . . . Few other nations can discuss their affairs without a mental reservation that war between them may one day be the deciding factor. We are not compelled to weigh our words and actions in order to consider how they would affect our respective positions in the event of a conflict between us. . . . We are friends, and as friends we should always be able to speak plainly, knowing that there can arise between us no misunderstanding that plain speaking will not clear away."

This plain speaking appeared to be for the benefit of nations at each other's throats. If they want methods for avoidance of war they have the example of the world's two greatest powers, brought to their attention by one of them holding the balance. And notwithstanding the warning that United States neutrality is not impossible, he would be a stupid dictator who failed to see the other side of the picture drawn: "In some quarters, it has been interpreted to mean that our country would not fight under any circumstances short of invasion. That is not accurate, in my opinion, and it is a dangerous sort of misunderstanding to be current just now."

The United States is arming, preparing to take "whatever course is considered best" for that country in event of a general war. There can be no war between the two great English-speaking peoples because they understand each other. "Where the present interests of Great Britain and the United States meet," said the Ambassador, "is in the prevention of this generally feared world war."

It ought to be plain enough speaking to cause the trouble-makers to halt. The two peoples, as Viscount Halifax said, may "view the world and what is happening in it in different perspective," but they have the same objective and are committed to the same principles in reaching it. They are aiming at international security through reason, strengthened, under Washington's present policy, by trade. "You cannot run down a customer with a bayonet," is the practical observation of the Ambassador-businessman.

Working together, the British Empire and the United States can prevent a conflagration, if not by argument, then by evidence that their combined resources will be used to demand peace. In the words of Secretary Hull, they are operating along parallel lines in the building of armaments and Washington is ready to collaborate with any nation or group in negotiating an understanding.

Ambassador Kennedy has assumed his duties in London under these circumstances. If he follows in the footsteps of his predecessors he will soon realize that the United Kingdom is actuated by the highest of motives in formulating policies. He is destined to take an important place in history in interpreting the ideals of his people to Britain and British ideals to the United States. It is inevitable that their relations will be strengthened by events threatening the foundations of democracy in which they have a common interest.

The Unfailing Source of Wisdom.

WHILE addressing a meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society recently, Lord Tweedsmuir declared that if the Bible were used more often today as a guide to statesmanship there would be more wisdom in the world. It is because the world—and too many of the world's statesmen, or at least some of its present leaders—have got away from the Bible influence that cut-throat practices prevail in national and international affairs, in business and in social life. There is no evil in the world today that the Bible—old but ever new—does not condemn. Even a partial adoption of the Golden rule would ensure peace among men.

As the Governor-General said, "The Bible is so exquisitely adapted to our civilization that no lapse of years can put it out of date." If in all its activities humanity followed the Scriptural standard of conduct this world would see better, saner behavior by the rank and file of the race, and then, of necessity, statesmanship would be marked by greater wisdom.

Snapshots

Successful politicians are men of grit. That's how they get in the public eye.

York County may well be proud of its members in the Legislature. They one and all made valuable contributions to the debates of the House this session. We do not wish to brag but we believe that our county members can hold their own with any county representation in the House.

Telling a man he is wise isn't a compliment. It just means that he agrees with us.

The beautiful friendship is near its end when they begin telling what they have done for one another.

"Fewer women than men are arrested for reckless driving."—News comment. And more worms than tigers get stepped on.

Every town has a few men who can't understand why they fail to get ahead when they are so much smarter than men who hire them.

Having people tell you how wonderful you are helps you to achieve big things, unless you begin to agree with them.

The most pathetically misguided person is the prospective bridegroom, who goes around in a cold perspiration before the wedding, under the delusion that he will be the cynosure of all eyes.

RAILWAY

(Continued from Page One)

cluding the Liberals, demanding that the Government intervene to prevent any general lay-off.

Transport Minister Howe declared the matter was now under discussion between the C.N.R. and the railway unions.

Serious Recession

There had been, he said, a "very serious recession" in railway traffic at the turn of the year, and the management had been forced to reduce shop hours by 20 per cent. It meant a four-day week instead of the five-day week, and the usual course was to spread the work over all the employees, he said. In this instance the union had demanded that seniority be given preference and that junior employees be laid off. Negotiations on this point were continuing, he said.

The remark made by Mr. Howe, which the Prime Minister chose to interpret for the House as Government policy respecting amalgamation, was:

"Every member knows that there is a terrific drive at this time for a program which is called unified management under private control, and the strongest argument behind that is that it is impossible for the Government to own a railway and have it operated without political interference. I think this debate today is one of the strongest indications that there may be a measure of truth in the representations that have been made, but I have always taken the view that it is possible for the Canadian National Railways to operate without political interference, and I have endeavored during the year I have been Minister of Transport to give it an opportunity so to operate."

In Difficult Position

"I think there is a danger," said Mr. King, "of the position of the Minister of Transport being greatly misrepresented."

Mr. Howe, he continued, had been in the difficult position of attempting to explain the views of the management of the railway.

"What the Minister had in mind was that the Canadian Pacific, a privately owned company, apparently can take up these questions—as it did this particular question some months ago—and settle them without any discussion in Parliament. But the moment the National system, under similar conditions and for similar reasons follows a like course of action, immediately that course of action becomes the subject of a political debate or of a debate in Parliament which, to a certain extent, brings the railways under political control."

"The concern of the Government is not only with the well-being of railway employees, but with the success of government ownership of railways."



NOTICE

Ticket No. 210

won the drawing for Spanish guitar which was held recently.

Hon. J. B. McNair

(Continued from Page Six)

character from the other proposition I mentioned a moment ago, which was that the Imperial Parliament should transfer to the Dominion Parliament the power now enjoyed by Westminster to make such an amendment.

When any specific amendment such as the one proposed in reference to unemployment insurance appears acceptable to this Legislature, then I assume we will consent that the Imperial Parliament change the B. N. A. Act accordingly. On this point I have little more to say at this time than this, that every proposal for a change in the allocation of legislative powers as between the Dominion and this Province should receive the most careful scrutiny and study.

I have still a firm belief in the wisdom of those men who seventy years ago created the federal system of government under which we live and hold the view that for all essential purposes we can work out our destiny and make of Canada a great nation within the general framework of the present B. N. A. Act. I am still to be convinced that in respect of those powers which this Legislature now has a New Brunswicker can legislate for the people of this Province to better advantage at Ottawa where he is out-numbered ten, twenty or thirty to one by the representatives of other Provinces than he can in this House where he is surrounded by men whose sole ambition is or should be to promote in a fair and legitimate way the interests of this Province. I believe too that a man can be a good New Brunswicker and at the same time a good Canadian. In short, I hold that we can best build on this continent a mighty nation by seeing that all our foundations are secure. To me there is nothing incongruous in the suggestion of nine strong Provinces in a strong Dominion.

All that is required to achieve this result is the spirit of co-operation and team play.

In this connection I am reminded of an observation made by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, during the debate on the Address. He grew somewhat caustic when he referred to certain alleged differences between this Government and the administration at Ottawa.

He was alluding to something that happened at the Dominion-Provincial Conference at Ottawa in December, 1935. At that time this Government rejected a certain proposal for constitutional reform advanced by the Dominion Government. At the 1936 session of this Legislature all members of this House, including our friends opposite, approved of the course we had taken.

There are just two things I have to say in answer to my friend's criticism:

The first is that the only real controversy we have had with the Dominion during our term of office arose out of the conduct of Mr. Bennett, and not that of Mr. King. Honourable members will recall that just prior to the last federal election Mr. Bennett, when he felt the political situation was desperate came out with his famous New Year reform programme which his followers in the Canadian Parliament, with that Tory docility usual when the political interests of their party are at stake, immediately enacted into law.

To social legislation so adopted could only be supported as within Dominion jurisdiction on principles of construction of the B. N. A. Act, which, if upheld, would have undermined the constitution of the Provinces, stripped them of all security and left their legislative powers open to invasion by the Dominion Parliament at will.

We had to go all the way to the Privy Council at London in that fight; and it was fortunate for the Provinces that we won.

Mr. Bennett's Way

In that case Mr. Bennett did not even ask the Provinces to give away their rights. He reached out and endeavored to take them by violence. That is the Tory way as opposed to the Liberal way which relies upon discussion, compromise and conciliation.

The second thing I have to say to my Honourable friend is that it is easy to understand how difficult it is for him with his Tory training and outlook to believe that Liberals can differ in their views and still be Liberals. Ours has always been the party of reform. Reform does not originate where smugness and self-complacency reign. It arises out of differences in viewpoints. Out of diversity comes unity and progress, if the will to co-operate is present.

The Liberal training and technique is I realize so different from the conventional Tory attitude that it is hard for my Honourable friend to comprehend our way of doing things. It is equally as difficult for me to picture a Tory Government in this Province declining, with any show of seriousness, to agree to any proposition advanced by a Tory Government at Ottawa; they would be too fearful of placing in jeopardy a possible Senatorship or Judgeship.

Reverting back for a moment to the question of amendments to the B.N.A. Act, such as that relating to (Continued on Page Five)

Daily Foreign News Comment

(By H. M. Paint of the Daily Mail Staff)

The news of the repressive measures taken against the followers of Nazi doctrines in Brazil are perhaps much more disturbing to Germany than appear on the surface. The Integralistas or Nazi party claimed a membership of one million. A country such as Brazil, with its large Italian population, its 500,000 Japanese immigrants and its strong German group furnished an ideal breeding ground for Nazi doctrines. Add to this the large group of negroes and natives who are willing to follow any strong leader for a few cents a day and enough to eat and the peril of the introduction of Nazism in the New World was very real.

A few months ago before the seizure of the Presidency by Vargas, Herr Schlotter, Special Envoy of the Reich came before the Brazilian Government with a novel suggestion. His proposition was that Brazil establish neutral European countries of essential raw materials for Nazi use in wartime. These supplies were to be warehoused and on call when needed. In return Germany was to furnish Brazil, manufactured German goods of equal value. Among the products which Herr Schlotter suggested Germany could use were rubber, hides, coffee, canned and dried beef and other essential war materials.

The Brazilian Government, not being especially enamoured with idea of furnishing the entire Brazilian population with mouth organs, musical instruments, binoculars, etc., even in exchange for coffee which last year they were dumping in the harbor at Rio de Janeiro turned the offer down.

Upon the seizure of power by Vargas a few months ago, many thought that this refusal had something to do with the overturn of the Government. The situation is still obscure, and it is too soon to predict whether the apparently severe measures taken against the Brazilian Nazi party are not window dressing.

A short time ago, Bolivia which is at present a landlocked country without seacoast, negotiated a treaty with Brazil which gave her access to the sea through Brazilian territory via the Amazon river, in exchange for an agreement to furnish oil to Brazil at an extremely low price. The Bolivian army is German trained and official and the Germans wield a great deal of influence in government circles.

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CHEAP RATES

(Continued from Page One)

ment good to leave destination up to midnight of Tuesday April 19.

The same fares will also apply for teachers and pupils during the Easter school vacation period but with the provision that railway tickets will be good going from Thursday March 31 up to and including Tuesday April 19 with the return movement good up to midnight of Tuesday April 26. Teachers and pupils will be required to provide certificate of identifications when purchasing their tickets in order to get the benefit of the extended time.

It is likely that in the next few months interesting developments will be seen in Brazil.

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