

MR. SPEAKER BELCOURT

FRENCH-CANADIAN WHO FIRST SAW
THE LIGHT IN TORONTO.

Some Curious and Interesting Facts Concerning the Personalities of French Members of the Canadian House of Commons—Some of the Attachments of the Office of Speaker—A Most Likeable Man.

It is a curious fact that the only member of the House of Commons who first saw the light in Toronto is a French-Canadian, writes R. K. in The Toronto News. He is also the Speaker, or will be on March 10, if nothing untoward happens. In 1860, when the peripatetic Parliament of old United Canada was putting in its four-year term in Toronto, a son arrived in the household of a civil servant named Belcourt, who, while a faithful and efficient clerk, held no very important post. The youngster was destined to be the future First Commoner of Canada, and he was to show, on his way to that eminence, an indomitable will, combined with a savoir that some politicians lack.

French Members Understand English.

There is not in the House of Commons a single French-Canadian who does not understand English. Perhaps the last representative who was monolingual was one Lippe, a habitant from Joliette. He had no word of the language of the majority. Time did not hang so heavily upon his hands, however, for he slept sixteen hours a day. Since the passing of Lippe, the French-Canadians have had not a single representative who could not get along fairly well in English. Most of them speak it very well. Few of them have no accent. Lemieux, the debonair, good-humored and capable Montrealese, who sits for Gaspé, has no French tang to his syllables. Neither has Belcourt, who passed a good part of his life amidst English-speaking Canadians. Belcourt in especial probably employs English half-a-dozen times to once when he uses French. In Ottawa, where he has a thriving law practice, the language of business and professional life is English. In their homes the French-Canadians use their mother tongue, but in the day's work the more widely understood medium is employed.

Belcourt's Fine Culture.

Belcourt has a fine knowledge of both literatures, and his speeches in the House since, in 1896, he became one of the members for Ottawa, have evinced his fine culture. But he has seldom been heard from. From the Parliament Buildings to the law office of Belcourt and Ritchie is but a couple of minutes' walk. A man with Belcourt's practice cannot well get away from clients when the telephone hangs handy. Neither, it is to be feared, can he escape from the insistent office-hunter. It is to be doubted whether his elevation to the Speakership will exempt Mr. Belcourt from the importunities of the latter class. Mr. Speaker exercises a vast amount of patronage. Here in Toronto the Provincial Government retains for itself the appointment of messengers, sessional clerks and other employees of the Legislature, but in Ottawa the Speaker has all such patronage in his own hands, and most of the incumbents of the position are very jealous of their privileges.

His High Ambition

It is said by some that Belcourt's ambition is to secure a seat on the Supreme Court Bench. Sir Elzear Taschereau is an old man, and his retirement cannot be long delayed. Belcourt would make an adequate successor. The fashion of appointing nobody but grandfathers to the highest court in the land seems to have become effete, so that his youthfulness could not be brought up in judgment against the new Speaker.

A Most Likeable Man.

Belcourt is one of the most likeable of men. He numbers, probably, more personal friends among the English-speaking Protestant population of Ottawa than any other man of his blood. He is an admirer of that division of our population, but his first love, as it is fitting, is his own people. When he is a younger man, the feeling between classes in Ottawa was not as cordial as it now is, and Belcourt, though he is a broad-minded man, cannot forget sundry hard things that were said by too enthusiastic Protestants. His temper is placid, but it is not mudily stagnant. Not many years ago he flew into a royal rage because a fat-brained English-Canadian thought to pay him a compliment by remarking that he was "a pretty decent fellow for a Frenchman." Belcourt's mildness vanished, and he made a few animated remarks to that complimentary gentleman.

A Self-Confessed Chump.

It was quite characteristic of the man that, ten minutes later, Belcourt said to an English-speaking friend of his, "Well, I'm a chump myself for getting hot at a fool." But the friend didn't think so. And few men would.

An Aggravated Cough Cured.

A customer of ours who had been suffering from a severe cough for six months, bought two bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy from us and was entirely cured by one and a half bottles of it. It gave perfect satisfaction with one trade.—Haynes-Parker & Co., Lineville, Ala. For sale by all druggists.

FROM BLACKFOOT LAND.

Facts About Northwest Indian Life—Some
Prairie Curios—M. Jobin Tells
of Mission Work.

A healthy, weather-browned face, a manner bubbling over with enthusiasm and kindly courtesy, a sturdy, active frame that a trained athlete might admire—these are some of the attributes of Alexandre Silvio Jobin, a delightful French-Canadian missionary priest, who was recently interviewed when passing through Toronto.

Monsieur Jobin is back for a while from the Northwest, where his missionary "district" stretches from Winnipeg on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west. He has brought with him a whole batch of Indian curios for Mr. James Morgan of Montreal.

One of the first was a long and imposing apron-like arrangement that went round the neck and hung down over the breast. "This is something we can't get any more," said Monsieur Jobin. "The Indians are getting lazy, and think these are too much trouble nowadays. They use these for the sun-dance and the warden dance. They have a long Indian name, which you are welcome to if you like, but I call them 'Freemason's aprons,' to save trouble. This belonged to a chief."

Some of the most interesting of Monsieur Jobin's curios are a number of bands worked in patterns with glass beads, and perfectly transparent. "People go wild after these," said he. They were certainly beautiful bits of work, showing no trace of any thread. So fine are the beads, that a needle will not go through them, and the Indians use a particular kind of sharp weed for the purpose.

Monsieur Jobin held up also some curiously worked patterns, beautifully designed.

"The boys make these patterns," he said. "You give them a piece of paper, and they will sit down on the floor and work out these by intertwining colored strips. It passes human imagination to think that these little Indians, without any instruction at all, can make such designs."

It is a mixed population that inhabits the wide Western lands where Monsieur Jobin and his fellow-missionaries work. There in Assiniboia is a colony of Belgians at St. Maurice Belgrade. All along the main line of the railway the population is English. Along the Arcelle line are settlers from Ontario. At St. Antony is a French-Canadian colony, while Icelanders, Russians, Jews and other nationalities also abound. The French-Canadians at St. Antony live in houses made of cut sods, like the farm buildings in Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and some of the Highlands and islands of Scotland. They are beautifully warm, and last about four years, "but," said Monsieur Jobin, "there is a very unpleasant thing about them in summer time. The snakes come through them, and make acquaintance with you in the house."

Two years ago Monsieur Jobin was on the Blackfoot Crossing Reserve, with the Blackfoot Indians. "They don't get civilized very much," he said. "Whatever we do for them now, we should feel the results of only in the generations to come."

It is the Crees who do the work of which the kindly priest has brought back such interesting specimens.

"Are there any adventures associated with these curios of yours?" asked the reporter.

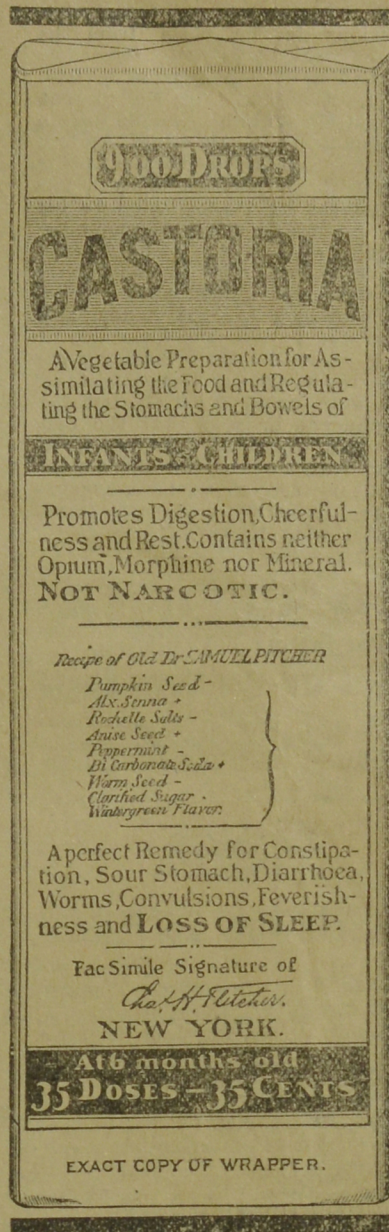
"Well," answered Monsieur Jobin, "this cap you see—it isn't much of a cap."

It certainly was not the sort of cap one would care to walk down Yonge street in on a Sunday morning, being a peculiar erection of feathers sticking up like a fence all around the edge. At the end of the cap were three little bells, and thereby hung a tale. It seemed that the particular band of Crees from whom this cap came were on the prairie one day, preparing for the sun-dance, when suddenly a dreadful thunderstorm came on. The man who was wearing the cap was struck dead. To appease the rage of the thunder-god, his fellows took the cap, and hung the bells on it, and stuck it up on a pole on the prairie, and made a great sacrifice. The poor, deluded Crees don't offer five cent pieces to the Great Spirit, but heap the best they have round the pole of sacrifice, and then go away and leave the good things to be taken by the Great Spirit at his leisure. "They just leave them there on the prairie to go to ruin," said Monsieur Jobin, "and we take them; and then, when they come in a few weeks' time and find they have gone, they have another dance, to show their gratitude to the Great Spirit for accepting their sacrifice. So it is satisfactory all round."

"The people who travel through the West don't see anything of the Indians if they stop in Winnipeg. The best way to see them is to take a rig and leave the cities, and go through the prairies on the reserves. Then they may see the ways of the Indians at their daily life."

"By the way," he added, "my Indian name is Minipoka, which means 'spoiled child,' because, when I first went among them, fresh from college, the Indians treated me so well, after their fashion."

There is no necessity of washing cotton or linen window blinds, as there is a much simpler way of cleaning them. The blind should be spread flat on a table and then rubbed well all over with bread crumbs. This will make it look quite clean and fresh.



CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of
Dr. J. C. Fletcher
In Use For Over Thirty Years
CASTORIA
A Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of Infants and Children.
Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.
Recipe of Old Dr. J. C. FLETCHER
Pumpkin Seed -
Aloe Senna -
Rhubarb Sals -
Anise Seed -
Peppermint -
St. Catharine's Oil -
Warm Seed -
Clarified Sugar -
Waterproof Flavor.
A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.
Fac Simile Signature of
Dr. J. C. Fletcher
NEW YORK.
At 6 months old
35 Doses - 35 CENTS
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

P. P. M.

"HEAD-LIGHTS"

P. P. M. is the POPULAR PARLOR MATCH
that retails 5 cents a box.

3 BOXES FOR 12 CENTS.

W. HARRY STEEVES,

Doctor of Dental Surgery,

Specialist in Crown and Bridge Work

230 Queen street, opp. Post Office.

All kinds of Dental Work performed promptly and efficiently with all the advance and improved methods. Office hours 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Telephone No. 154.

Could Not Sleep At Night.

Was All Run Down.

Had No Appetite.

FOOD WOULD NOT DIGEST.

Mrs. I. W. Warner, Riverdale, N.S.,
is glad there is such a remedy as

**Burdock
Blood Bitters.**

IT CURED HER
AND WILL CURE YOU.

She says: "I wish to add my testimony to the many others who have spoken so highly as to the unfailing virtues of Burdock Blood Bitters. I was all run down, had no appetite, lost all ambition, could not sleep much and had terrible headache and backache, and my food did not digest properly. I saw B.B.B. advertised, so concluded to give it a trial, thinking if it did no good it could do no harm. But after using one bottle I began to feel better, and by the time I had used three bottles I was feeling like a new person. I am so glad there is such a remedy provided for suffering humanity, and cannot praise it enough for I think there is no medicine like it on the market."

Hard Coal

To arrive immediately on opening of navigation, per Schooners Par-cilla, Geneverne and James L. Malloy: 800 tons

**Lehigh
Hard Coal**

In all sizes. Place your orders at once and secure the discount.

P. FARRELI

April 10, 1904

Needed in Every Home

Always
Up to Date

**WEBSTER'S
INTERNATIONAL
DICTIONARY**

A Dictionary of ENGLISH,
Biography, Geography, Fiction, etc.

The New and Enlarged
Edition Contains

25,000 New Words

New Gazetteer of the World
with more than 25,000 titles, based on the latest census returns.

New Biographical Dictionary
containing names of over 10,000 noteworthy persons, with nationality, occupation, date of reigns, date of birth, death, etc.

Edited by W. T. HARRIS, Ph.D., LL.D.,
United States Commissioner of Education.

New Plates 2380 Quarto Pages
Rich Bindings 5000 Illustrations

We also publish
Webster's Collegiate Dictionary
with Glossary of Scottish Words and Phrases.
1100 Pages, 1400 Illustrations. Size 7x10x3 5-8 inches.
"First-class in quality, second-class in size."

LET US SEND YOU FREE
"A Test in Pronunciation" which affords a
pleasant and instructive evening's entertain-
ment. Illustrated pamphlet also free.

G. & C. MERRIAM COMPANY,
Publishers, Springfield, Mass.

How do You Feel This Spring?

Are you wanting a tonic? Try our

**Giant
Sarsaparilla**

The greatest blood purifier and
Spring Medicine for enervating and
lassitude.

Alonzo Staples

York Street Drug Store.

INTERCOLONIAL
RAILWAY

On and after Sunday, October 11th, 1903,
trains will run daily (Sundays excepted), as
follows:

TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 6 Mixed for Moncton	6.30
No. 2 Express for Halifax, the Sydneys and Campbellton	7.00
No. 4 Express for Point du Chene	13.15
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	12.1
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.10
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Mon- treal	18.40
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.2

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.2
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	13.52
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton	15.20
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene	16.50
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton	17.40
No. 1 Express from Halifax	18.40
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Sunday only)	24.35

All trains are run by Atlantic Standard
Time. Twenty-four o'clock is midnight.
Moncton, October 9, 1903

W. J. IRVINE, D.D.S.

(And Special Practitioner's Certificate
from Chicago College of Dental Surgery).

Artificial Teeth

Inserted in Gold, Aluminum and ordinary
Rubber Plates.

Crown and Bridge Work

Executed in Gold and Porcelain after
latest and best methods.

Anesthetics.
Local and General applied and administered
for Painless Dentistry.

Office: CHESTNUT'S BUILDING.
Queen st., opp. City Hall. Tel. 78.

G. T. WHELPLEY

Seeds

Seed Oats,
White and Black Seed Oats,
Grass Seed,
Alsike, Northern Red and Long
Late Clover Seed,
Seed Peas and Ensilage Corn,
A large variety of Garden Seeds.

G. T. WHELPLEY

310 Queen St., F'ton.

MEN AND WOMEN.
Use Big G for unnatural
discharges, inflammations,
irritations or ulcerations
of mucous membranes.
Painless, and not astrin-
gent or poisonous.
Sold by Druggists,
or sent in plain wrapper,
by express, prepaid, for
\$1.00, or 3 bottles \$2.75.
Circular sent on request.