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PRINCE AT ST. JOHN.

A Very Hearty Greeting and a Busy Day and Night for His Serene Highness.

WHO MADE AN ELOQUENT AND DIPLOMATIC SPEECH.

Louis of Battenberg, the sailor prince, says the Telegraph won the hearts of all who have seen him in St. John. His manly bearing and his gracious manner—unchanging whether he appeared before a formal gathering met to honor him, or an assemblage grouped upon the street to see him pass—made a deep impression yesterday.

Again, he showed himself the man of power and position, one who has to do with the empire's protection, for at Mayor White's luncheon he made an address in which was outlined British naval policy and the motherland's care for her colonies. A full report of his speech is here given.

Tall and commanding in appearance, dressed in the full uniform of a rear admiral of the British navy which well set off his square shoulders and deep chest, the white of his naval cap in contrast to his dark hair and well-trimmed beard, the admiral prince was a striking figure. His features in repose are attractive. But when he smiles, as he often did yesterday, they became doubly so, for there was everything of good nature and geniality in his laugh. Time and again girls and young women sought "snap shots" as he left or entered his carriage, and he never failed to "pose" with a bright smile and a cherry expression. "Now's the chance," he said to a group in front of the Union Club. "Don't hurry," he said to two misses on another occasion. "It doesn't cost anything"—and the crowd applauded him for his graciousness.

It was a busy day for him, and not the least part of the programme was the citizen's reception and ball in the evening. St. Andrew's rink was a place of rare beauty. In its decorations it was handsome, but in its wealth of beautiful women, their magnificent costumes and the bright uniforms of the officers from the ships and the local military men, the scene became one to be remembered long and with pleasure.

The luncheon given at the Union Club by Mayor W. W. White in honor of the prince, was perhaps the most successful, and enjoyable function ever prepared for a visitor to the city. The arrangements were elaborate, the decorations very beautiful, the mayor made a graceful chairman and the guest was most genial and created a lasting impression upon all.

The Prince's Arrival.

Prince Louis of Battenberg, Lieut. Gerald Sowerby and two servants arrived in St. John by rail in the morning from Halifax. Quite a number were down at the depot to see the arrival of royalty notwithstanding the early hour but they were disappointed as His Serene Highness did not leave his car until nearly eight o'clock. Then accompanied by Col. H. H. McLean the party took two cabs and drove to the Royal Hotel.

Upon arriving at the Royal, the Prince went immediately to his suite of rooms coming down in about twenty minutes to breakfast. Upon its conclusion he went again to his rooms where he remained until visited by the Lieutenant-Governor.

At eleven o'clock Governor Snowball and staff called upon the Prince at the Royal Hotel. The visit was a formal one and was returned fifteen minutes later by the Prince.

At 11.30 His Worship Mayor White called on the Prince and at 12 o'clock the Prince drove to City Hall, where he was received by the mayor and aldermen and presented with an address.

SPEECH AT THE LUNCHEON.

Speaking in reply to the toast to his health at Mayor White's luncheon, Prince Louis expressed his appreciation of the honor done him and in turn honored the city, above all others in Canada, by giving the first explanation ever officially made of the reason for his visit and the causes for the new policy of the British Admiralty which gave rise to it. His speech, with no pretence to eloquence, was a practical, illuminating expression of the ideas that underlie the empire's defense, every word indicative of a wide knowledge of his subject and statesmanlike grasp of national affairs. He spoke as follows:

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen:

I thank you most kindly for your warm reception today and for the kind words in which you have proposed my health. It gives me great pleasure to again visit St. John, after a lapse of a great many years. Of the loyalty of the King's subjects in your country, especially in this city, I think we may have no doubt. When I return to England at the

end of my period, I hope to have the opportunity of giving His Majesty an account of my memorable round in the different parts of the Dominion of Canada, both from here and from the other cities which I have visited and from all of which I have been requested to carry to His Majesty messages of loyalty.

This, my visit to this important seaport town, marks the end of what has been to myself and the officers and men under my command, a most enjoyable and interesting visit—a grand visit, I may say. My visit is indirectly caused by what some people describe as a change in the naval policy. The dockyard at Halifax has been closed and the same policy has been pursued on both sides of the Dominion of Canada, as well as in the West Indies, and we have benefited by it.

If you will give me your attention for a few minutes, I should very much like to have the opportunity (probably the last time I will be in a position of addressing a representative body of citizens of one of the important centres of the Dominion) to explain in a very few words the misapprehensions which have arisen in the minds of a great many on this side of the Atlantic—views as to the steps taken by the Admiralty. I should like to show you that instead of having to deal with a sudden change of policy, it is more in the nature of the natural evolution brought about by a great many factors, and it is an old saying that we should profit by the misfortune of one's friends. I beg your forgiveness if I have to imply technicalities in the course of my remarks to you.

Concentration is the essence of strategy, and strategy the art of war, which applies to the army as well as to the navy. The worst form of strategy is the dispersion of the main forces. In far outlying post-stations beyond all means of direct communication, under old conditions the Admiralty had to form squadrons which were sent away, and there they stayed, and they worked their own sweet will, and as it would take a letter the best part of a year to reach them, nobody could interfere.

Now take the squadron which I command. We can get up steam practically in an hour. We can get under way in about the same time. We can disappear in two hours beyond the horizon, and no man living can tell where we may turn up in a few days' time. The matter was brought to a heading in consequence of certain factors, one being it had gradually been brought home to people who are charged with these matters that no ship is of any use whatever unless protected—unless properly armed. Hence fast vessels had to be built, fitted with armor. These cruisers will be finished in suitable numbers. A ship like the Drake had 30,000 horse power and the largest complement of men. The difficulty which the Admiralty had to face was where to get officers and men for these important ships, but they looked around and found at different stations a number of ships absolutely useless, and having no protection whatever. In case of emergency these ships would be very poor factors. These ships are being disposed of, being sold, and the officers and men thus set free from the different stations have been employed in many ships that are of use in war.

The squadron which I am commanding was formed in consequence of this difficulty, and could not have been formed if these ships had not been withdrawn from these stations. When these ships were withdrawn it was obvious that a dockyard which existed for the sole benefit of these ships ceased to have any present value. A dockyard such as the one at Halifax is expensive to keep up. There is the wages of the people, the masses of stores that accumulate and deteriorate, and it was the natural prerogative when the permanent ships were withdrawn the dockyard should be unfurnished. The difference between a furnished house and an unfurnished house.

There is perhaps an exaggerated idea about the importance of a naval base. You will see a great deal of talk where naval experts think that the only salvation is where you get a fine harbor to plant it with guns. The guns in a place like this have a very limited range. The harbor is safe, but nothing beyond. Admiral Togo, who has just brought this great war to a victorious issue, during eighteen months never made use of the numerous well stocked and well fortified naval bases at his command, but used what is called the flying bases—establishing himself where he found it would be a convenient base with respect to the work in hand. Togo never went near the coast of Japan—if he got the worst of it, then perhaps he might have gone to Sasebo.

Gentlemen—I apologize for keeping you at such length. I am extremely anxious to remove, if I can, any misapprehensions that may be in your minds if you felt that you were being badly treated by the Admiralty. Believe me, your interests have never been better looked after, the full disposition of the naval forces of Great Britain have never been so advantageously placed for safeguarding the interests of the Empire, not only on this side of the Atlantic, but everywhere else. My officers and myself have enjoyed our stay here and at Halifax, and at other places more than I can tell. It has been delightful, and we leave with heavy hearts. I thank you very much for your kind attention to my words, and we shall always look back on our three months' stay in this part of Canada as something which we are not likely to forget.

The prince subsequently attended a reception at the residence of Lady Tilley, and in the evening the reception and dance at St. Andrew's rink where a great crowd assembled, His Serene Highness mingling freely with the dancers.

His Serene Highness opened the ball with Mrs. W. W. White as his partner, and during the evening danced nearly all the numbers on the programme. During his drive with Mayor White in the afternoon the prince visited the old ladies' home

and shook hands with all the inmates.

Two ships of the prince's squadron the Cornwall and Berwick, are anchored in St. John harbor and will remain there till Monday when they join the others from Halifax for the trip to New York.

Hon. C. W. Robinson, speaker of the Legislature, and Mrs. Robinson arrived from Moncton this morning and are guests at the Queen.

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D. POTTINGER,
General Manager.

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