

(April 27th, 1936)

Imperial Affairs

BY DR. SIGMUND SAMUEL.

COL. BISHOP:—This indeed has been an excellent season and it has given me no small pleasure to guide the destinies of your club through it.

Before we come to the report of the nominating committee I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the executive of the Canadian Club and all the members for their enthusiastic and hearty support during the past year. The increase in membership is most encouraging and I feel that the club, having reached the low point of the curve, can now be carried on in its upward trend.

In this respect I would like to say to the Canadian Club something which I have thought over a great deal during this past year. It pertains to the existence in Toronto of both the Canadian Club and the Empire Club, the aims and objectives of which are practically the same. For the benefit of many of you who do not know how these clubs came into being I would point out there was a considerable difference of opinion arising in the year 1905 from the results of the Alverston Commission award. You may remember there were two Canadian jurists, three Americans and the President of the Committee who made the award was the Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Alverston. The point at issue was that strip of coast on the western shore of British Columbia contiguous to Alaska which had been claimed by the American Government of 1867, the year of Confederation, and which had lain idle until 1897 when the discovery of gold in the Yukon made that territory valuable. The award was given in favor of the United States. From what I can make out from those who remember the circumstances, and I have asked several of our leading legal

lights, and they tell me there was very, very bitter feeling in Canada at that time. The award had gone against her on the decision of Lord Alverston and it was felt the Canadian Club was not properly putting its weight and several members broke off and formed the Empire Club. Since that time much water has gone down the stream and the attitude of Canada during the war has given proof of her loyalty to the Crown and to the Empire, around which were centred the fears of many of those who broke off and formed the Empire Club in 1904.

I would suggest respectfully to the incoming executive that an invitation be issued to the Empire Club to come back within the fold of the Canadian Club. We have 48 luncheon clubs in Toronto already. Unity is strength. I know this is a platitude, but it is a true one and the amalgamation of these two clubs, both pursuing the same ideals and objectives, would, in my opinion, be to the best interests of both of these organizations. There are some excellent points which we might incorporate—their motto, which is Canada and a United Empire, and the singing of the National Anthem and possibly Grace. I know I may be taken as heretical by a lot of the old members of the Canadian Club, but I think we are facing a time in Canada in which we of these patriotic organizations, such as the Canadian and Empire Clubs, must stand together. There are some 300 members of our club members of their club. There is an obvious saving to them. The Year Book cost of printing will, I think, be cheap with increased membership. The Modus operandi, in case the incoming executive should see fit, I would suggest would be that the presidents of these two clubs alternate over the meetings during this coming year. In that way instead of the competitive element entering into it whereby international speakers are canvassed by cable, telegraph and radio, and forced to a difficult decision sometimes as to the club they wish to address, that would be eliminated. We had the greatest example of that when His Excellency accepted the invitation of the Canadian Club, was present at a joint meeting as our guest, under our auspices, with the Empire Club as guests also, and the misfortune was that the Governor-General had been

made Honorary President of the Empire Club that morning—a most embarrassing position to put him in. But I do beg the incoming executive to consider what I have said in the spirit in which it was meant, namely co-operation, since the ideals and objectives are much the same and the cause for which the two clubs broke apart is so far back, that the best purpose can be served by the amalgamation of the two clubs.

I confess it has been partly laziness on my part or I would have broached this question early in the year. I did take the trouble to canvass several vice-presidents of the Canadian and Empire Clubs and they are in absolute accord, and I think it is a question of submitting it to the two clubs. But I do think an invitation should be issued to them to come back.

(After the election of officers and receiving reports.)

The office of president is sometimes not considered a very happy one, but I can only say if Col. Mess has as much happiness as I had at it, it is a year he can look forward to with great pleasure. He is a Scotsman, born in Dundee, and came to this country in 1910 and became actively engaged in business. He has been successful in that, as is all too evident by the number of boards on which he sits and the variety of occupations which he pursues. His conduct of the affairs of your club speaks for itself according to the enthusiastic reports I have had of the manner in which he carried on during my absence this winter. Col. Mess went overseas with the Machine Gun Detachment and became commander of that unit. He was decorated for gallantry and was a thorough-going good soldier. Canada is indeed fortunate that we have these sons of Scotland to come out here from time to time and make a success as the Colonel has. Most Scotsmen, however, do succeed; look around the local professions, the clergy, and so forth. Notwithstanding his civil activities after the war, Col. Mess has pursued with the militia a very active career. He at one time commanded the Machine Gun detachment here in Toronto. Before we proceed I am sure you would like a few words from Col. Mess.

COL. MESS:—Mr. President and gentlemen, thank you

very much for the honor you have just given me. I fully appreciate the responsibilities of this high position, but I feel that our task this year should be not too difficult after the wonderful foundation that Col. Bishop has built in the season just passed. I hope, gentlemen, that I shall justify your confidence. Thank you.

COL. BISHOP:—Distinguished guests and gentlemen, and those who may be listening-in on the radio, as a fitting finale to a very successful season we could think of no better compliment to the members of the Canadian Club and those who listen-in each week by radio than to ask one of Toronto's most distinguished citizens to be our guest of honor. Dr. Sigmund Samuel was born in Toronto and has pursued a very active business career, and, in addition to carrying out his activities in the business world, has found a great deal of time to devote to the cultural side. As governor of the Royal Ontario Museum, he can, I think, tell us something of that in a way which only those intimately connected with it can. We have something in the Royal Ontario Museum, I sometimes think, which is not thoroughly appreciated by everybody in Toronto. Dr. Samuel comes to us today for the second time in the history of the Club. We welcome him as a friend, so I will not introduce him to you but rather make him welcome, on your behalf. It gives me great pleasure to welcome back Dr. Samuel.

DR. SAMUEL:—Mr. President and gentlemen of the Canadian Club, may I say it is quite impossible for me to measure up to your worthy president's high standard. And in expressing my welcome to the new president may I express our satisfaction at the happy termination of the election we have witnessed. I have had large experience with elections and never yet have I seen one with as few casualties.

I am delighted indeed to address the Canadian Club. I feel it is a very high compliment to be able to speak as I do here in my native city to such a distinguished audience as I observe. I can only conclude that they came for the purpose of the election and not to hear those "idle remarks of an idle fellow." Sometimes, however, I attempt to fill in my spare moments by a visit to the Royal Ontario Mu-

seum, about which your president has spoken so feelingly. I am delighted to see Prof. Currelly who is "guide, philosopher and friend" of the Museum. It is one of the finest to be found in the whole wide world. And as for Col. Bishop himself, is he not kinsman to one of our greatest benefactors, the late Col. Leonard? Also may I say that there are misguided people in old London town who have boasted they have never seen the interior of Westminster Abbey or the Tower of London. Gentlemen, let not that reproach be laid at your feet because in the Museum we have something outstanding, a rich store house of treasures, gathered from the four corners of the earth.

Now to come to the subject proper, Imperial Affairs, it is only a short time, a little over two weeks, ago, that I left London from Waterloo Station and I reached here only in time to be present at your last meeting when, in an excellent address, your speaker referred to the fact that his great-great-grandfather had been present with Wolfe, in 1758, at the reduction of Louisburg. A story I am going to inflict on you. It appears a man was at a dinner in the fashionable west-end of London, sitting between two of the season's debutantes, and by way of conversation remarked that his grandfather had been killed at Waterloo. He mentioned that to the lady on his left. "Killed at Waterloo? What platform was he standing on when that happened?" So he turned to the lady on his right and said, "What do you think? I said to the lady on my left, my grandfather was killed at Waterloo and her response was: "Which platform?" The young thing on his right replied, "As if it made any difference, which platform he was standing on."

So I left Waterloo and went to Southampton to sail in the Aquitania. We were due to sail at noon, but were held up until one p.m., but there was no grumbling from the passengers because an event of great importance was happening—nothing less than the leaving of the "Queen Mary" from the dry-dock, her proceeding around our stern and taking up her position on the Cunard pier alongside. She is magnificent, 80,000 tons, 1,000 feet in length, a great tribute to British workmanship! (I mean Scottish of course).

In a month's time from now the "Queen Mary" will be leaving on her maiden trip to America and, under her normal speed of thirty knots, she will cross the ocean, I expect, in four days, scarcely giving one time to examine her and with no time to get thoroughly sea-sick. Well, in the morning of our arrival at Quarantine I was much impressed by the sight of pigeons on the promenade deck, and I saw them tying little capsules to their legs and releasing the birds. Well, at twelve o'clock on the dock, the newspapers were out with their noon editions and contained photographs, as a result of those birds, that had been taken during the voyage; and that homing instinct had the same effect on me. I was coming home. I was coming to Toronto. I was thinking of the words of Scott:—

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land?"

To retract my steps to England for a moment, England is in a state of deservedly very high prosperity. There are evidences of it on every hand. Building is going on at the phenomenal rate of one thousand homes or houses *per diem*. Isn't it wonderful to think of it? It is making up, of course, for the leeway when building was suspended during the war. But it is not only in the houses. Go into the metropolitan district, called the city. Go to the west-end, to the suburbs, Kingston-on-the-Thames, Surbiton or Windsor, twenty miles away. If Gray were to come to life would he write of the peasantry of Stoke Pagis?:

"Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife
"Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray
Along the cool, sequester'd vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way."
Sometimes misquoted as "even tenor" of their way
when no longer "noiseless" by the test of the
motor horns.

The prosperity of England is not difficult to determine. In the first place it had something to do with that economic conference in Ottawa in 1932. I was privileged, Mr. Presi-

dent, to speak about the forthcoming conference in that year and to foretell its success. That success has been wonderful and is evident in England and particularly in London. The economic conference has had a great deal to do with prosperity. England is prosperous and deserves to be. When I was lunching with an English representative of a large Australian firm, in one of the city clubs of London, the talk was on something of great importance to Englishmen, namely, the result of the International Cricket match! Australia vs. England. My friend said to me: "England is in the lead, and I am pleased." I said, "You, an Australian, and glad to see England in the lead?" He said: "England must always be in the lead." And those are my sentiments. She must always be in the lead if we are to have a British Empire, and she *is* in the lead, and no doubt about it.

The voice of the people is heard distinctly in the House of Commons at Westminster, more so at Westminster than in any other parliament of the world. The members do represent England there and do it on a salary of £400 a year.

England is progressing for another reason. It is largely owing to a man named Hitler. Now Hitler has done a great deal for Germany, and done harm—both harm and good. And I will tell you why he has harmed Germany. When Hitler rose, as he did so rapidly, to power, it was necessary, as times were not good, to divert the thoughts of the people, often done by warfare. He was not quite ready to make war, though he gazed with envy on the rich fields of France and the fact that France had a population that has been steadily diminishing by the practice of birth control, while that of Germany is increasing, like the sands of the sea shore. But he had to turn on someone and he chose anti-Semitism. He turned on the Jews. He deprived the Jews of positions, which they had won by ability, he wanted their positions for Aryans, (whatever that may mean). He also took their possessions because, he said, the Jew might leave Germany, but must not take his possessions with him, especially his money. Generous fellow! While the Jews in Germany numbered only 600,000 in a population of 68,-

000,000, or less than one per cent. outside Germany, and particularly in commercial affairs, the Jews are very powerful. In conversation with one of those highly intelligent and really civil servants, (I refer to a steward on board ship), I said, "It is strange on this steamer in the off-season there should be such a large number of passengers." He said, "We are getting all the patronage of the Jewish buyers." "Well," I said, "does that make so much difference?" "It certainly does. Owing to their special aptitude and their knowledge of languages and international experience, many Jewish buyers are engaged by non-Jewish firms with the consequence that London is no longer a way-station on the route to Europe. London is now the terminus of buying trips. The fur buyer no longer goes to Leipzig, nor the toy-buyer to Nuremburg. The textile trade of Berlin has gone to London. At the great British fair the sound of the guttural-voiced German was quite distinct. Here were German buyers going to London. Is it surprising when we read the figures disclosed in the Board of Trade returns of England and see month by month, year by year, trade is constantly increasing in the right direction, by the increase of English exports? Germany and England for years have been rivals for the great overseas trade. The maintenance of their overseas trade is a matter of life and death to them. They cannot exist by taking in each other's washing. . . . I count a great deal of it to Hitlerism that England is prosperous and Germany is not.

In May, 1915, I was guest at a country house in England and my host suggested a motor trip. Amongst other places we visited was Winchester. It has a famous public school, also the great Cathedral, and has produced some of the greatest men in England. There was no service when we went, but I was impressed by men in khaki, coming in two's and three's, and kneeling and saying a prayer before passing out, possibly never to return. On emerging I saw a group of people around a local newspaper office, where there was a placard up which said, "Italy Joins the War on the side of the Allies." It was a welcome piece of news, because Italy has a population nearly as large as England's, and is prominent in the Mediterranean. There was great

doubt whether Italy would come in on our side, but she did.

If she had come in a little sooner, in August of the preceding year, she might have succeeded in stopping the two German war-ships, Goeben and Breslau, and interned them in Naples Harbor. Instead of which, you all know the story, how the German officers and men made their wills before sailing. They succeeded in getting to the Dardanelles, thus bringing in Turkey against us. I think there is no doubt if those ships had not got away, Turkey would not have come into the war against us and that terrible tragedy of Gallipoli would not have been written.

One must bear in mind also the fact that Italy today is doing in Abyssinia what England did one, two, and three centuries before, and adding to her territory by conquest. After all we must not forget Canada was conquered by the British from the French, of which more hereafter. We are apt to blind ourselves with the idea the British Empire was built up by the discoverer and the British seamen and adventurers, but rather by conquest was the Empire built up. We do not need to cavil at that. Far from it. We are eternally grateful for the result. We are pleased it is in existence. After all, the only Empire which remained (after the great war), was the British Empire. A thousand friends are better than one enemy and Italy was a friend of ours.

It is difficult to speak of Imperial affairs without reference to this Canada of ours. But before doing that, I want to say something about some black spots in England. It strikes me very forcibly that we in Canada must relax our barriers on immigration. We must make this preeminently a British country. And there is one industry that undoubtedly is prosperous here, an industry which produces a commodity of which there is never a surplus, and that is gold. It is bringing higher prices than ever before. Now the black spots in England are in the coal fields. The spots are being narrowed, of course, but there are large numbers of men who would make very desirable Canadians, could they by some magic wand be wafted over here to partake of the prosperity that is undoubtedly existing in our mining districts. We have the Cambrian area over thousands

of miles with untold riches. There is great development and there must be a demand for labor. Why not transfer coal miners out of employment in England and give them a chance to take up life here in our wonderful mining area? I have in mind that it should not be necessary for us to enforce the literary, nor the monetary, test on these immigrants. Let us apply the physical and moral tests. That is of more importance to us than the mere idea of mental qualifications. We want to see a vigorous race produced here. We have in this tremendous country only ten million people. We occupy one-fifteenth of the whole landed surface of the globe; we have seventh place in trade; second in gold production; and we must have more people. I do not say to indulge in agriculture, with 200,000,000 bushels of wheat yet unsold; but let them indulge in mining all the year round. It doesn't matter how far north these mines extend. They are workable all the year round. In the Great Slave Lake, discovered by Mackenzie, who gave the river its name, great wealth has been discovered in radium salts, pitchblende, great blessings to mankind. Nobody knows the enormous wealth we have in Canada. Napoleon said every soldier carried in his knapsack a field marshal's baton. So it is, every Canadian is a potential millionaire. England is the most highly industrialized country and yet agriculture is still the biggest industry. And so if there is not room for people to produce more wheat, Canada has at least a field in mining.

Now with regard to the United States. To go back to the 1770's, in 1774 all North America covering the area from the Rio Grande to the Arctic Circle, from the Atlantic to the Pacific; all was under the folds of the Union Jack. But there was something stirring in 1775, in Philadelphia, known as the Declaration of Rights, which was followed next year by the Declaration of Independence. But while the revolution was simmering, the people of the thirteen colonies were anxious that the Canadians should join them because Quebec was the key to the St. Lawrence and the Great Waterway of enormous importance, and much more important, before railways were inaugurated. So they sent a deputation headed by Benedict Arnold to Quebec to in-

duce the Canadians to join them in the revolution. Had they consented the consequence would have been very different, no doubt, and the revolution might not have lasted seven or eight years and the whole of Canada and the United States would have seceded from the British Crown.

But Sir Guy Carleton had charge of military affairs in Quebec and when Arnold said, "Will you and your forces join us in this revolution?" Carleton said: "What privileges are we to have, if the revolution is successful?" Shall we be able to enjoy the advantages under the Quebec Act, that is, the right to use French in the councils, in the schools and courts?" Arnold said, "No. We are English-speaking people and English is going to be our language and no other." One cannot blame him for that if you think of the preponderance of English-speaking in the thirteen colonies in comparison with Quebec. Carleton said, "No, I am sorry, we are happy under the British crown. We prefer to continue as we are. If you wish to rebel that is your affair. We are going to stick." And stick he did, because it was less than a year afterwards that the Americans attempted to do by force what they were unable to do by persuasion. They sent armed forces against Quebec. You all know the result. It was a miserable failure, costing the death of their General Montgomery. The revolutionary war went on and in 1783 England recognized the independence of the United States. They joined the comity of nations, but Canada remained faithful to the British Crown.

The late Rudyard Kipling in one of his poems referred to Queen Victoria as the Widow of Windsor and I believe in doing so he caused offence; at least to the Royal Family. Although done with the best intentions, Kipling did not obtain the coveted honor of poet laureate. But he reached the hearts of the people, as perhaps no other poet since Shakespeare, as we saw by the expression of grief throughout the whole of the English-speaking world when he died. I was glad to see Americans pay such deep tribute to his late Majesty the King of England. It shows the history of this continent is being redirected. No longer do the fourth of July orators berate England so fanatically. Today Americans are looking across the ocean to England and many, I

have no doubt, wish some of these wonderful statesmen England possesses could come to Washington and help them to straighten out their chaotic affairs.

What has the British Empire accomplished? The greatest union on earth. It embraces a quarter of the whole world and is going steadily forward, onward and upward. Before I left England I saw a play by Bernard Shaw called the Apple Cart. It is 1970 and a young American Ambassador says, "Your Majesty, on the behest of the President of the United States, I have come to ask if I may have the pleasure of advising that the United States would once more join the British Empire." It gives me a thrill. If not politically we are at least in matters of sentiment drawing closer and closer together. I was delighted to see that a reciprocity pact had been arranged between Canada and the republic. There is nothing like trade to bind people together. That Reciprocity pact was proposed by the Conservative and implemented by the Liberal government. I was looking at Adam Smith's book recently in which he declared trade like water should be allowed to find its own level. I think we in Canada have nothing to fear from close reciprocity with the United States. We have everything to gain as far as I can see. And reciprocity between England and the United States and all the Empire will, I feel, be the greatest guarantee of peace.

COL. BISHOP:—I know I am expressing the thoughts of everyone here when I say we most deeply appreciate your very, very interesting address to us. The wide course which you took from Great Slave Lake to the St. Lawrence and the Tower of London, with sidelights on Rudyard Kipling indicates the mind of a man of a great deal of reading, who retains what he has read and gives it off to others, as you have done, with knowledge and charm of manner. Each subject has been related to the other in a way that has maintained our interest. We are grateful and we hope you will come back and talk to us again some day.