

HUGHES FOR FREE, HONEST CRITICISM

Country Should Know Truth as to Handling of War, He Says.

BAKER URGES SUPPORT

Secretary Daniels Would Draw Line Against Carping Critics, Tells Publishers.

Speaking last night at the annual dinner of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, an organization which includes every newspaper publisher of importance in the United States, Secretary of War Baker, Charles E. Hughes came out unflinchingly for the people that the people of the country were entitled to know the facts and the whole truth about the manner in which the war was being conducted with the nation's resources as might be to the benefit of the enemy.

The keynote was struck by Mr. Daniels in a speech in which he said that as an editor and publisher for the greater part of his life his instinct was always to give the public the news. His speech was followed by that of Mr. Hughes, who declared that the people were entitled to know all the truth. Mr. Baker in concluding said that he came to beseech the publishers present to mass public opinion behind the conduct of the war, public opinion being as vital a force in its prosecution as the military services.

"An honest critic is the noblest product of a newspaper publishers' association," said Mr. Hughes. He approved the idea of putting 1,000,000 men in the field at once, and said that it was for America by supporting an adequate number of fighting men to make victory sure.

"With due recognition of the difficulty," he said, "of exact definition and distinction it is quite obvious that there is a field for honest criticism which should not be surrendered without imperiling the essentials of liberty and the preservation of the nation itself. Our country is not a private club."

Country Should Have Facts.

"Even when equipped with the extraordinary powers of the war they are the servants of the nation accountable for the exercise of their authority."

"War demands fighting men who see straight and shoot straight. It also demands fighting critics who see straight and are honest and candid in criticism."

"It goes without saying that the country should have the facts. Plainly, there are matters which for military reasons must be concealed so as not to aid the enemy. But any one who conceals facts even in war time has a heavy burden of proof as to the necessity for such concealment."

"Furnishing material for criticism is by no means the same thing as giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Let the truth be known. The anxiety should be not to avoid disclosure but rather to prevent error. Rarely will the enemy be the gainer by our knowledge of the facts. He will thrive on our apprehensions and our misconceptions. Publish the facts and disarm the critics. Or publish the facts and make amends, if there are amends to be made."

"This is the more important in view of our system of government. If we are to have a government which should undoubtedly have at this time a coalition government, representative of the great parties. I do not say that it would be better or worse but we should have it. According to the constitution, a parliamentary vote would produce it. Our system assures a measure of stability in its security of tenure which the other system does not afford. This is its advantage and its strength, although it is equally plain that it would be a terrible disadvantage if the Government were not in able hands."

"But manifestly with this relative freedom from accountability to a parliamentary majority, and with this almost exclusive accountability to public opinion, the function of a free, intrepid, candid and honest press is of the highest importance. There is only one rule acceptable in war. It ought to be the only rule in peace. In a state of war should drive it home to our consciousness that the whole truth (save in a few instances where military exigencies forbid) and certainly nothing but the truth. An honest critic is the noblest product of a newspaper publishers' association."

Daniels Approves Criticism.

Secretary Daniels followed Mr. Hughes in advancing his criticism of public officials, but he drew a fine distinction as to such criticism and publications that might hamper the prosecution of the war, and he wanted the line drawn where the free press would have to stop in matters affecting the fight. Mr. Daniels said in part: "Having entered the war for these high motives and without any selfish interest, America will wage it until the message of autocracy no longer endangers the happiness and prosperity of mankind. We shall have anxious days, we are passing through hours of peril, but nowhere in the heart of any true American is there any thought except that expressed by John Paul Jones in a moment when the sea battle seemed almost lost. He answered the query whether he would surrender by the inspiring declaration, 'We have not yet begun to fight.' This utterance of the greatest American sailor, who lived long in France after his retirement, was probably the inspiration of Gen. Foch's shibboleth, 'The battle is never lost until its loss is admitted.' From across the sea, we have received from men in the navy and in the army abundant proof that the morale of the fighting men is firm and undaunted. Daily giving all they have and all they hope to be, these courageous defenders on land and sea glorify America. There is nowhere any lack of the high morale that is the first requisite of victory."

"Can we say as much of public opinion at home? Are we ready to make every needed sacrifice to match their noble giving of their all? That is the acid test to be applied."

"To print the truth, to give constructive criticism, to stamp and properly interpret intellectually the tremendous import of movements in thought as well as in action is a supreme duty of the press. If it is to fulfill its mission of shaping public opinion to the heights where all are ready to follow Jefferson's admonition, 'Love your country better than yourself.'"

"It would be a calamity to the country for the press, for any reason, to feel hampered in the freest and fullest discussion of every act of every public official, from the highest to the lowest. Frank and honest criticism keeps clear the running stream. But a line must be drawn somewhere. At what point shall that line be drawn? At the water's edge and in war energy. Within America, in domestic concerns, let the press be encouraged to criticize and condemn where it detects what it thinks is error. The only hope for the best government is criticism that knows neither friend nor foe, of national measures and national servants. But where there is a state of war between this country and

BRITISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL FINDS U. S. READY TO FIGHT

Right Honorable Sir Frederick Smith Describes in "My American Visit" His Experiences in a Speaking Tour Through This Country and Canada.

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.

Sir Frederick Smith came to America Christmas week, 1917, to tell the United States what Great Britain was doing in the war and what it was hoped America would contribute. He received an ovation from New York business men.

The growth of the prohibition movement in the United States and Canada made a great impression on Sir Frederick.

At Washington Sir Frederick was a guest at a dinner attended by nearly the entire Supreme Court. He met all of the members of the Cabinet and then went to call on the President, by whom he was much impressed.

Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago were visited, the titled Briton receiving enthusiastic receptions in each city.

At Detroit and Cleveland Sir Frederick was received by the Bar Association and officials and made several addresses. He praised the cohesiveness and National Army and told of the budding of the cantonments.

He declared that in view of the tremendous resolution and accomplishments of America critics of its war policy might well be silent. He outlined Great Britain's war work at a banquet of the Ohio Society, at which Theodore Roosevelt also spoke.

Sir Frederick left again for Chicago, accompanied by United States Solicitor-General Davis, where they both spoke at a short public address made at Louisville, and the party then journeyed to the University of Missouri at Columbia. Here he spoke to the students and to a meeting of leading farmers.

He visited Kansas City and Topeka, then came back through Chicago to Canada. He pointed out the irony in which the Dominion had sprung to arms at the call of the mother country.

At Toronto he was entertained by Government officials and addressed a great mass meeting.

By the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Smith, Attorney-General of England.

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CHAPTER XI. (Continued.)

Tuesday, January 22.—We arrived at Ottawa at 11:45, three hours late, and left in two motors for Government House, where we were to stay with the Duke. The last time I had stayed with him was at Chatsworth in 1910, when I had arranged to speak for Kerry. By an odd coincidence I was three hours late on that occasion too, my car breaking down in the snow over the hills of Derbyshire. So that I came to them twice through the snows.

Government House is an old-fashioned rambling building, which has been added to by successive Governments. It is, on the whole, very comfortable, and has some beautiful reception rooms. The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, whom I had known for many years, had asked us to lunch with him at the club. He had invited about thirty guests, including all of the Ministers who were in Ottawa at the time.

The Coalition was indeed almost completely represented. Among the Conservatives were J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways; Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior; C. C. Ballantyne, Minister of Finance; J. A. A. Macdonald, Minister of Militia; J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration; A. Sifton, Minister of Customs; Martin Bunnell, Secretary of State, and T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor.

Among the new Liberal members of the Government were N. W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council; Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance; and T. A. Grenar, Minister of Agriculture. And there were present many Judges, including the Right Hon. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. All the Ministers, including the Premier, spoke in the highest terms of the ability of Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior. He was formerly Solicitor-General, and is, I suppose, a "political lawyer." But unless I am mistaken he will play a great part in the history of the Dominion of Canada.

I sat next to Sir Robert Borden in the motor. He is a most interesting lunch partner, but without his family—to London. He had himself—so I was told—addressed the same club a few days before and had made a deep impression by an earnest, sincere and unaffected speech. I can easily understand that he would get on very well with the Canadians. The room to-day was very crowded, the guests sitting in final appeal over the decisions of the tribunals in the province of Quebec, was in the chair. Sir Robert Borden and many other Ministers were present. I ought to have said that Sir Cecil and Lady Spring Rice were staying at Government House.

Sir Cecil, who is shortly returning, was certainly had a most interesting lunch. It was my fault if I did not understand Canadian affairs when it was over. The Premier and his predecessor talked among themselves with much cordiality and seemed on the best of terms. Sir Wilfrid, who is, in the late years, an old man, showed no signs of fatigue and was in the best of spirits. On the contrary he was alert, lively and most agreeable. He is and will be as long as he lives one of the great personalities among the statesmen of the Empire.

I had last met Sir Robert Borden in 1916 staying with Bonar Law at his house by the sea. Winston, I remember, was of the party, and the present Prime Minister motored over on Sunday to lunch. This was on the day when we first had private news that Bulgaria was committed to the war. We talked over old times, and then all three of us discussed the war together. Sir Robert has always seemed to me to be not only a very sincere and direct but a very resolute and impetuous man. I suspect that his opponents have, throughout his career, made the mistake of underrating him.

Later the Prime Minister introduced me in a very kind speech, and I did the best I could before this distinguished audience. Fortunately only a short speech was required.

After lunch, we went for a long walk to watch the winter sports. Tobogganers, skiers and skaters. The scene was animated, and it all looked very amusing. We did not compete. I would like to have tried the ice toboggan, but it was terrifyingly steep, and one had to pull the car back oneself up the steep mountain side.

In the evening, there was a large dinner party at Government House, consisting of about forty people. The company was of the highest quality, and included, with their ladies, including Sir Robert and Lady Borden, and many of those whom we had met at lunch. I between the Duchess and Lady Borden.

The proceedings in the large drawing room after dinner were formal, the Duke speaking to every lady at the party in turn. The A. D. C.'s tactfully effected changes among other groups, if at any time there seemed a tendency to stagnate. The proceedings, however, were of an interesting and interesting impression of playing General Post.

The household at Government House is friendly, and I should think works together in a most admirable harmony and loyalty. Lord Richard Nevill is controller of the household, and is kindness itself to the Duke's guests. He thinks of everything one may want, just before he wants it. Harold Henderson is one of the military secretaries, an old colleague of mine in the House of Commons, and almost a neighbor in the country. For many years, too, we have been former officers in the same brigade of Yeomanry. He has a convenient little house at the end of the garden. It was nice to see Lady Violet

BLUMENTHAL IS NOW BLUNT.

Court Changes Name of Duchess of Montmorency's Son.

Speedway for War Spectacle.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

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The A. D. C.'s are very attractive young men. One of them, Capt. Ridley, a relative of my old friend, Mr. Justice Ridley, was a planter in East Africa when the war broke out. He and his three partners at once enlisted, and he fought in the Tanga affair. Two of his partners have been killed. He returned to England and joined the Grenadier Guards. Since then, both he and his remaining partner have been badly wounded. Another A. D. C. was Capt. Kenyon-Slaney, also of the Grenadier Guards, and a son of that Col. Kenyon-Slaney who was well known and liked in the House of Commons twenty years ago. Lady Helen Kenyon-Slaney is the daughter of my old friend and political colleague, the Duke of Abercorn, with whom I had stayed in Ireland. Kenyon-Slaney himself had been badly wounded in the war. I thought that both he and Ridley did work which required both tact and judgment extraordinarily well. Capt. Bulkeley-Johnson of the Rifle Brigade is another very popular A. D. C. He is a member of the Scots Greys, who lost his life in France recently, and was a most gallant soldier. Capt. Bulkeley-Johnson has himself been severely wounded and is universally recognized as a very promising officer. And indeed, I heard on all hands how popular the whole household was in Canada. The Duchess was indeed, worshipped by every one, and it would be impossible to overstate the service rendered to the Empire during the war by the immediate predecessors of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

And the Princess Patricia's Regiment have for many years been doing very good work in the history of the British Empire. We skated all the morning on the private rink at Government House. The day was bright and sunny and the air like a wonderful tonic. Nearly the whole party took to the ice, and it was very amusing. The Lieutenant was very busy with his cinematograph.

In the evening there was another great dinner at Government House, consisting as before of about forty guests of whom Sir Wilfrid Laurier was one.

At 11 o'clock the hospitable club where we had lunched had arranged a dance in our honor. It seemed, when the moment arrived, to be many miles away. I confess that I tried to run out, but was told (and this was true) that I had promised to go and that the party was arranged on this understanding. So once again the motor cars carried us to the electric railway, on a windy journey in the snow, and we found, in compensation, a very gay and pleasant company assembled. Society in Ottawa talks good humoredly of some of its youngest and most unworldly members as "Night Niners."

I suppose they may distantly correspond with those young people in London (said a diminished company since the war) to whom the name of "Night Niners" has by an obscure affiliation, descended. It means, I fancy, only that a very innocent degree of extra emancipation is claimed by its members. We were told that many of the number were present I saw (without counting) many delightful young ladies, but nothing to justify the adjective.

We stayed on, Harold Henderson and the A. D. C.'s and the rest of us, some dancing, some talking, some playing bridge, until about 4 A. M. It was, perhaps, the most enjoyable evening for middle aged men, desperate in loco, for the tour, with all its grinding exactions, was very near its close, and the speeches rapidly followed.

Thursday, January 24.—In the morning we skated again. Little Arne, the youngest daughter, very sweet and self-possessed.

We lunched at the new hotel, the Chateau Laurier, with the members of the Canadian Club. Judge Duff, one of the ablest members of the bench, who is today sitting in final appeal over the decisions of the tribunals in the province of Quebec, was in the chair. Sir Robert Borden and many other Ministers were present. I ought to have said that Sir Cecil and Lady Spring Rice were staying at Government House.

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Nights and Days Ashore With Sims's Circus

Another Whitaker story about the American destroyer fleet abroad. "Sims's Circus," the sailors call the hornets who are making life miserable for the Kaiser's submarines. It's a gay, adventuresome, inspiring life our men are leading on the water over there. Back from dashing voyages, every minute a race with death, they plunge gaily, yet heartily and healthily into the amusements and comforts provided for them on land. Take a trip to London with the Jackies in



Bill Gordon, Prince of Pile Drivers. A tale about a Hog Island "Hog," written by another "hog," that gives a gripping picture of life and events at our biggest shipyard. A real man is Bill Gordon; a driver of men as well as of piles and a leader to follow, likewise. A real truthful romance of the race of the builders of ships against the Huns who destroy them.

The Coal Bin and the Barge Canal. Has your fuel for next winter been put in? Are you assured you will get it? Read and find out the exact situation and likewise what effect the Government's taking over of the canal will have on the provisioning of the city.

Cutting In on the Kaiser's Wire. What American telephone experts are doing in France to keep up communications between the front and the rear. They "listen in" on phones

Finest Hospital Ship in World. She's the Comfort and at a navy yard somewhere on the Atlantic coast she is being made ready for service abroad. New York women helped to make her what she is—the most complete floating hospital ever outfitted. Your soldier boy may be on her some day and you ought to know what she is like and what her facilities are.

