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Union and by coincidence the British Consul from the Seattle office was at the meeting. After the speech and in the informal discussion, I told the British Consul that we had studied at Oxford, enjoyed every day of our lives there, and if there was ever anything I could do to compensate for the joy we had had in England, we would be most happy to do so. Much to my surprise, in May or June of 1943, the British Consul called and asked if he could take me to lunch. I went to Seattle to the Rainier Club. We had a very interesting luncheon. He mentioned the fact that by some queer quirk of circumstance there was somewhat of an anti-British feeling in the Pacific Northwest and that they would like to do something to alleviate this problem. Out of the luncheon and the conversation arose the possibility of the coming of the British Ambassador to the United States to the Pacific Northwest to give a series of addresses and to be honored by a convocation at the College of Puget Sound. This was structured so that it could be done on Thursday, July 22, 1943. It was a very interesting process of working out the details. Lord and Lady Halifax were to come and possibly their son who had been wounded in the battle of Alamein in Egypt and who had lost both of his legs in the battle.

The program was to be a convocation at the College of Puget Sound at which time Lord Halifax would receive an honorary degree. He would speak to a select group at a sit-down luncheon at Kittredge Hall and then he would go to Seattle where he would be honored there also. Probably the best report is found in the

News Tribune, July 23, 1943 written by Nelson R. Hong:

"Lord Halifax proves he is a diplomat of ability. He shows tact of first order at informal luncheon followed by conferment of Puget Sound Degree. All those who broke bread with Lord Halifax at Kittredge Hall Thursday afternoon after the British Ambassador to the United States had received an honorary degree at the College of Puget Sound are satisfied that he is a diplomat of the first water, possessing the gift of saying the right thing at the right time.

The luncheon in the college commons was as informal as the degree conferment was formal. Lord Halifax who accepted the scholastic honor with great mien and utmost dignity unveiled at the luncheon his sparkle, standing out in deep contrast to his austerity of a few minutes before.

Dr. R. Franklin Thompson, President of the College, introduced members of the official party who remained seated during their presentation. After Lady Halifax had been introduced, a woman in the audience interrupted Dr. Thompson saying "All the ladies on this side want a better look at Mrs. Halifax. Won't you please ask her to stand up." (This is Mrs. Todd). Dr. Thompson answered that he was in the process of negotiating with Lady Halifax to get her to say a few words. He remarked that her Ladyship had not as yet consented but that he hoped she would soon accept the invitation.

Dr. Thompson apparently won his point with Lady Halifax for in a few minutes she was on her feet to talk.

"I want to say to you people," she said, "that you are extremely fortunate in having a persevering young man as Dr. Thompson to be your president. He does not give up."

Lady Halifax Speaks. Lady Halifax added that she was happy to be here and she was having a wonderful time.

After Mrs. Halifax had given the women on the side table a good chance to look at her, Dr. Thompson called on her husband for a few informal remarks.

"This leaves me in a very uncomfortable position", he said. "During more than 30 years of marriage, whenever we have been wherever I have had to speak in competition with Lady Halifax, my wife has always had the last word. I feel that for me to speak at this time will be trying to upset what has become a peace making trust of long standing."

"Some of you probably noticed that when I was in Portland a few days ago I said that if for any reason I found it a desire to be a resident of any other place other than England, Oregon being a highly attractive state would be my choice.

I want to say now that I made that statement before I had seen Washington. My outlook on such matters has broadened considerably, however, I must ask that should any of you have the occasion to visit Oregon to say nothing about my having changed my mind.

I am happy that we are meeting today under the most favorable circumstances. So far as the war is concerned we can feel good about it be the news if favorable from every sector.

However, let me not think the end is just around the corner. There is a hard and costly fight ahead of us but I can say that victory is assured.

Dr. Paul Fossum, president of the English Speaking Union called for a toast to the King of England while those present were still standing, Lord Halifax quickly responded by calling for a toast to the President of the United States. The third toast was made to victory."

Program Clicks

"Lord Halifax' visit to the College of Puget Sound was arranged with great finesse from his arrival to his departure everything worked like a clock. The college authorities are to be complimented for the way the convocation was handled and also for the excellent luncheon which was expertly served. Dr. Thompson forgot nothing or nobody. The policemen who escorted the official party had seats in the best part of Jones auditorium and after the luncheon they said somebody must have passed along the word that the police would have good appetites. The officers were delighted because so often it happens they are treated like something of step children on such occasions.

While the policemen praised Dr. Thompson for his thoughtfulness, Lord Halifax and his party were praising the police for the excellent handling of transportation arrangements. Commissioner Inar Langseth assigned Chief Thomas R. Ross personally to handle the situation and there was no unpleasant instance in the hurried situation."

It was interesting that when Dr. Fossum raised a toast to the King, I heard someone say under his breath, "My God, a toast in water to the King of England."

As we have said in other places in the history, Mrs. Todd was the one who took her cane and hit the table and said, "We want to hear from Mrs. Halifax."

The protocol had been very carefully outlined to us by the British Consul. It was to be Lord Halifax and then Lady Halifax and, of course, when their son was presented in his wheelchair, he struck a note of sympathy everywhere and there was a great feeling of comradery that came to all those who somehow or other were touched by the Halifax visit.

I received letters from Lord Halifax saying it was one of the outstanding of his visits to any college and he was very proud of his degree from the College of Puget Sound.

I also had a follow-up conversation with the British Consul in Seattle and he was most pleased with the coming of the Ambassador. It had been very interesting because in the protocol ahead of time, I asked the exact way by which Lord Halifax was to be addressed and was told he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesties Government.