

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

<i>The Real Answer. (Cartoon)</i>	13
<i>War Munitions in Canada—The Submarine Enquiry—Patriotism and Politics</i>	14
<i>Heartly Congratulations. (Cartoon)—A Conservative Tribute to the Liberal Leader</i>	15
<i>More Honors for Nationalists—Trades and Labor Congress</i>	16-17
<i>Extravagance—Deficits—Taxes</i>	18-19
<i>Where the Money Goes (Increase in Gov't Departmental Expenditures)—Prince Edward Island Elections</i>	20-21
<i>Mr. Micawber White. (Cartoon)—A New Minister</i>	22
<i>The Navy that Might have Been</i>	23
<i>Diary of the Month</i>	24

WAR MUNITIONS IN CANADA.

The activities and inactivities of the Dominion Shell Committee, which was named early after the outbreak of the War by the Dominion Government to take charge of all munitions contracts for the Imperial government in Canada, have been much in the limelight recently. On October 9th, speaking before the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at Montreal, Mr. D. A. Thomas, representative in Canada of the British Minister of Munitions, stated that the Shell Committee was to be re-organized, he having been given this assurance by the Dominion Government. He stated that he was empowered to place further large orders "provided prices and conditions are satisfactory," but that prices had been higher and delivery slower in Canada than in Great Britain or the United States.

Major General Sir Sam Hughes replied to Mr. Thomas in an interview the following day in which he took flat issue with Mr. Thomas and declared that some of his statements as reported were erroneous. Sir Sam concluded: "It is upward of three months since Mr. Thomas crossed the ocean and he has not concluded a contract yet for one single dollar's worth of orders in Canada." To the average person this fact will possibly be taken as the best proof that Mr. Thomas has not found "conditions" satisfactory.

Mr. Thomas was naturally guarded in his statements. "If I raise the veil a little" he said, "it will be on my own personal responsibility and do not take it as coming from the Minister of Munitions. But naturally, from my official position, I must have considerable inside knowledge of what is going on in Canada in the manufacture of munitions."

The Ottawa Citizen, October 13th, perhaps put in plainer words what Mr. Thomas may have been hinting at, when it said:

"The Shell Committee must be made so strong as to be above possible pressure or interference by interests representing political patronage or private profiteering."

THE SUBMARINE ENQUIRY.

The Davidson Commission on War Contracts opened its investigation into the purchase of two submarines for the Canadian Government at Victoria, B.C., on October 1st and adjourned on October 5th, when it was intimated by Sir Charles Davidson that he would continue the investigation in the East, and if necessary, would return to Victoria at a later date if he found it advisable to examine further witnesses. The evidence taken at Victoria added but little circumstantial detail to the facts as previously made public through the press or before the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons. It was shown that the contract price for the two submarines to the government of Chile was \$818,000, while the Canadian Government paid \$1,150,000 for the same boats. J. B. Paterson of Seattle, who conducted the negotiations with Sir Richard McBride and other government representatives, admitted that he had received \$40,000 of the purchase price as his commission on the deal.

PATRIOTISM AND POLITICS.

The temptation to make practical political use of the public opportunities afforded them when they are ostensibly on national and patriotic business at recruiting meetings has apparently proved too strong for certain members of the Borden cabinet recently. Major General Sir Sam Hughes was at Berlin, Ont., Sept. 17th, and delivered a fighting patriotic speech which undoubtedly lost none of its flavor for the people of Berlin when it was accompanied by the promise that he would see that they got a new drill hall in Berlin "after the War is over." Not unlike the Berlin episode was the experience of the people of St. John, N.B., who heard an eloquent and intensely patriotic speech in the interests of recruiting from Hon. J. D. Hazen, Sept. 20th, which also carried added flavor when it was announced immediately afterward in the Conservative press that Hon. Mr. Hazen had found that St. John needed great additions to the warehouses on the Government piers, and that he would see that the work was got under way very shortly. Hon. Robert Rogers, who is never to be outdone when there is promise of Government "benevolence" to be given where it will do the most good, gave the people of Chambly-Vercheres, on the south bank of the St. Lawrence below Montreal, a taste of the same flavor when he addressed a great recruiting rally at Longueuil, Sept. 25th. Mr. Rogers made a fine recruiting speech but he prefaced it with a reference to the troubles of handling the western grain crop through the port of Montreal, which he declared to be congested. As reported in the Montreal Star, Mr. Rogers said: "That port will never be able adequately to respond to the requirements of the west until it has been extended to the south shore—to this particular locality—that it may achieve future and more profitable development."