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Men of To-Day

The Strenuous Minister

METHODIST ministers used to have a reputation for traveling in the old saddle-bag and camp-meeting days. But Cabinet ministers in the present Government hold the record for mileage. Since the present Cabinet came into office the members of it have traveled far enough to go several times round the earth at the equator and then have enough mileage left to go considerable of the journey on a trip to Mars. This latter journey is mentioned here because it's really one that Colonel the Hon. Sam Hughes may take, when he discovers that what Europe doesn't know about war is altogether too much. The Colonel will then go to headquarters in an airship.

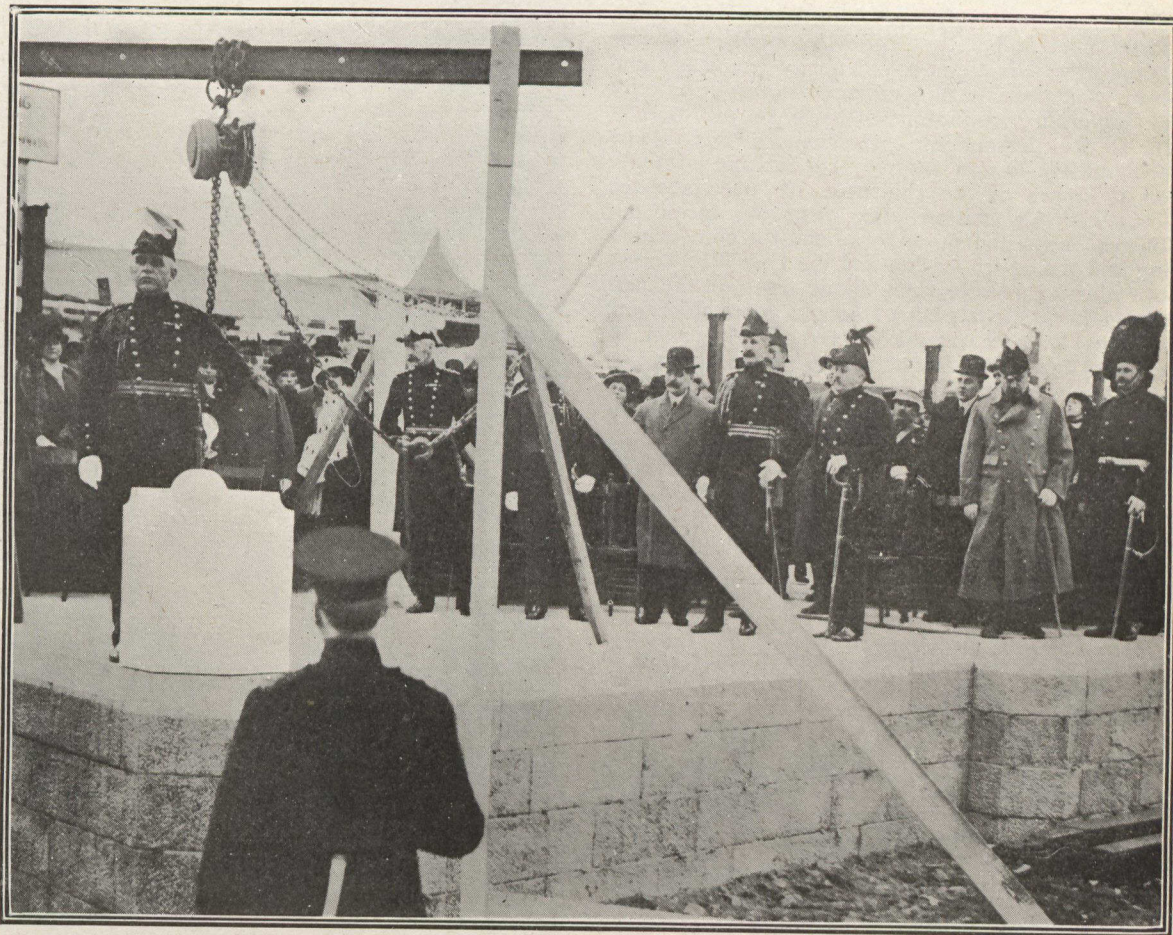
He has returned from a military entourage that, according to Liberal mathematicians, is worth 110,000 bushels of good wheat. The same calculators do not seem to remember the famous de luxe expedition of Captain Bernier in the *Arctic*, when champagne empties were left drifting in the ice floes. Col. Hughes does not travel on champagne. He is a temperance man. But when it comes to traveling abroad the Colonel cuts loose. The mileage books of the Militia Department hold the record. Trade and Commerce ran up several thousand miles when Mr. Foster went to Australia and the Orient this year. Last year the Premier and three of his Ministers, including Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Hazen, went to England with side trips to the continent. Other Ministers have traveled, too.

ALL these itineraries were necessary in the interests of Canada. Nobody objects. The fact that Col. Hughes had twenty-three officers and several lady secretaries on the trip to Europe seems to bother some of the Liberal calculators. Twenty-three is a hoodoo number. But the Colonel was never perturbed by a hoodoo. He defies conventions and mere averages. He wears a red tie in the Royal box at the Russell Theatre. The red tie is symbolical of Mars, the red god of war. He sees Europe as a vast camp of armies. Canada also must be an armed camp. New drill halls are being built from coast to coast. The picture on this page shows the corner-stone laying of what is supposed to be the biggest in Canada, when completed, the great drill hall in Montreal. At the same time the Colonel reviewed a brand-new regiment in Montreal. If you build drill-halls you must have regiments to occupy them. If you keep on enlarging and creating regiments, you need more drill halls.

Why not? The Colonel is a soldier. He does not believe in armchair tactics. He wants realities. Either this country is in a potential state of war or it is not. If it is, then we must have the men and the munitions of war. The cost is altogether incidental. War is known to be the costliest pastime or business of the human race. Its purpose is to destroy. It produces nothing, except labour for those who produce the raw material and the munitions and regalia of war. It is quite absurd that the Minister of Militia should take any stock in the country's revenues. Critics say that we can't afford to lavish our substance upon war. The Colonel believes that we can't afford the insecurity of being unprepared for war.

Mr. Borden at Golf

THE Premier has gone away for a month's vacation. Parliament is not likely to assemble until January. No Canadian Premier ever tackled quite the first-two-years-of-office programme bequeathed to Mr. Borden. Sir Wilfrid did not finish



A NEW REGIMENT AND A NEW ARMOURIES AT MONTREAL.
Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes Speaks at the Corner-stone Laying of the New Drill Hall for the Grenadier Guards, Montreal's New Regiment.

his work. Mr. Borden has been finishing some of it, with a few alterations. He has also tackled several new tasks. His Cabinet, less a galaxy of stars than the Cabinet of 1896, has been considerably shuffled since 1911. Several other changes are forecasted by the Opposition newspapers. Distinguished for practical business and not for imagination, the Cabinet had its solidarity severely tested by the Naval Aid Bill deadlock.

Mr. Borden has had many advisers. A plain, outspoken man by nature, he is not essentially fond of the atmosphere of inside diplomacy. He wears no velvet glove. Always taking his high office with great seriousness, he has felt its burdens more constantly than Sir Wilfrid or Sir John Macdonald, both of whom had the faculty of extracting casual amusement out of the cares of office. The recent bye-elections have not shaken the Premier's confidence in himself and his cause; neither have they been the source of unalloyed ministerial jubilation. The victory at Chateaugay was offset by the turnover in South Bruce.

Mr. Borden's vacation on the eve of another session will give him an opportunity to get a personal focus on the lines of force which are bound to confront him at the assembling of Parliament. He needs the retirement. He is a golf enthusiast; no mere imitation of Arthur Balfour and Lloyd George. The game probably helps to give him the humorous outlook upon life somewhat denied him by endowment. And the grand game is just about strenuous and precarious enough to take a man's mind off the worries of State, and to keep him in good physical condition, which is as necessary to a Premier as to an athlete. The Premier has had a strenuous time these last two years. And he has a strenuous time ahead. He needs to conserve his health.



AS MADAME BORDEN SEES HIM.
This Play Picture of Mr. Borden was Taken on the Grounds of the Premier's Home, "Glensmere," at Ottawa, by Madame Borden, who has Made a Delightful Hobby of the Camera.