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may be applicable to individuals as well as to proposals or offers, has the following (1807 in Sheridaniana 211); "I think, father", said he, "that many men who are called great patriots in the House of Commons, are great humbugs".

The Imperial Dictionary, another well recognized authority discloses the near relationship of the terms "humbug" and "deception". It defines humbug in one place as "spirit of deception, or imposition". It is particularly helpful in disclosing the real meaning of the term by giving its derivation. This I quote. It is as follows: "Humbug - No doubt from 'hum' and 'bug', 'hum' having probably its sense of to deceive, and 'bug' its old meaning of 'bugbear'; hence it is false alarm. The association of 'hum' with 'bug' was perhaps partly suggested by the fact that 'bug' meant also a beetle or other insect, partly from the words 'hum' and 'buzz' having been employed in conjunction to typify sound without sense." That seems to me to fit the situation perfectly.

I am inclined to believe that it may have been from consorting with the Honourable Howard Ferguson, during Mr. Ferguson's visit to London in company with Canada's Prime Minister, that Mr. Thomas came to use the word "humbug"

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
Speeches-1922 - 1932

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