

SIR SAM HUGHES AND UNION GOVERNMENT.

WE reproduce herewith extracts from an interview given by Sir Sam Hughes which appeared in the Daily Warder of Lindsay, Ont., on October 16th, 1917. Sir Sam was asked:

"What do you think of the new Union Government?"
"It is a splendid triumph for the plans long ago laid by Sir Joseph Flavelle and Sir Thomas White," replied Sir Sam.

"How does that appear?"

"It is now more than a year since the movement to form a National or a "National Trust" Government as it was sometimes termed, was proposed by Sir Joseph and his friends. It is understood that the undertaking involved at that time a replacement of Sir Robert Borden by Sir Thomas White."

How will coalition affect you personally?

"Every candidate and Member of Parliament owes allegiance to his constituents and to them only. The people are masters; the members are their servants; and in turn the Cabinet are the servants of the members. At least that is what should prevail under responsible government, and just as Governments depart from these principles do they become Kaiser-like; the machine prevails and liberty is endangered."

"You seem to think there was no pressing need for Coalition?"

"None whatever. That is, had the Government done its full duty during the last year."

"But Laurier held up proceedings for the successful carrying on of the war?"

"Nonsense! Laurier had nothing to do with it. It was Sir Thomas White, Sir Joseph Flavelle, Sir Geo. Perley, Baron Shaughnessy, and possibly dread of the Nationalist party in Quebec under Bourassa."

"But did not Laurier force this war-time election?"

"I do not see how. On three different occasions the Government itself planned elections in war time. Once immediately after the session of 1914, again about the time of the sinking of the Lusitania; third, when Mr. Rogers made his famous and inspired Montreal address. It is understood there was still another occasion."

"When war was declared and before any session of Parliament I favored an election early in Aug., 1914, No one else did. Again, after the session, when it was planned to swing an election I objected because of Borden pledges to Laurier during the session, when the Liberals behaved so well. In this I stood alone once more, and was severely condemned by the 'wire-pullers' of the party."

"Will there be much loss of time before these men become accustomed to their new offices?"

"It could not be worse than it has been in the last two years with Perley holding up everything in England and White lining up everything here for the benefit of the institutions with which he and Flavelle are allied. One would almost be led to believe that the desire was to prolong the war for the benefit of certain people and institutions in Canada."

192 COMMISSIONS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

A return brought down by the Government and laid on the Table of the Senate, on May 21st, 1917, shows that from the time the Borden Government took office up to that date, May 21st, 1917, over 175 commissions have been appointed. The return gives the names of the Commissioners, the object of the Commission and the cost. Any person

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The re-organized Borden Government may be stronger than the old Borden Government, but it also costs more. Retrenchment appears to be the last consideration in the making of new governments.

Before reorganization fifteen Ministers represented the Borden Administration. The New administration has twenty-two Ministers. Of the twenty-two Ministers, fourteen are Conservatives and eight are Liberals. This seems to be Sir Robert Borden's idea of a Government formed on a fifty-fifty basis.