

## CANADA'S MILITARY-MAD WAR LORD.

IN a period of falling revenues, at a time when Canada is preparing to celebrate a hundred years of peace, and when the danger of an armed invasion of Canadian soil was never more remote, Canada's military-mad War Lord, Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes, with the aid and consent of the Borden Government, is increasing the militia expenditures by another two or three millions. Despite all the pleas and protests of the Liberals in Parliament, he has put through estimates for Militia expenditures this year totaling \$14,528,582, including nearly \$3,000,000 for armouries and drill halls. Some of these drill halls at a cost of from \$10,000 to \$15,000 apiece are being scattered in villages of less than 1,000 population. Even the cross-roads have not escaped. As Col. Hughes himself intimates, he wants to put a drill hall beside every church and school-house in Canada.

In his three years of office he has practically doubled the expenditure on militia. During the discussion of his estimates in Parliament last session he frankly declared that he should have \$17,000,000 instead of only \$14,000,000 to spend this year. "If I had my proper allowance for expenditure on militia", he said, "I would have \$17,000,000. I propose extending these drill halls throughout the length and breadth of the country. Whether it is on military business or the Grand Lodge, I propose to travel in a private car. There is no gold lace going to be cut off—not a particle of it."

The total appropriations made by Parliament this session for defence, including the maintenance of a naval service without a navy, amounts to \$18,792,381. In twenty years the population of Canada has increased by less than half. In the same period the expenditures for militia and defence have increased fifteen fold. In the last year of Liberal rule the total expenditure for militia purposes, including drill halls and armouries was \$7,099,822. This year Col. Hughes proposes to spend more than double that amount. For agriculture, the total vote for all purposes is \$4,378,437, to encourage and develop an industry representing an output last year of \$1,212,079,722. For militarism, which yields no

revenue, which is contrary to the spirit of Canadian people, the Government is spending over three times as much as for agriculture.

There is money for the Minister's private cars, for European junketing trips, for salutes and guards of honor, and for a permanent force costing this year over \$2,000,000. But there is no money for industrial training and technical education. The real battles of Canada must be fought in the schools and work shops, and not in the camps of war. To the suggestion made by the Liberals in Parliament that the Militia estimates should be cut down by at least \$3,000,000 and the money thus saved devoted to carrying out the recommendations of the technical education commission appointed under the Laurier Government, Col. Hughes simply replied "From the viewpoint of technical education and of the up-building of manhood of this country, no technical education can possibly approach the benefit to the people through these drill halls".

Between doing as Col. Hughes threatens, and probably will do next year, namely increasing the militia expenditures to \$17,000,000, and doing as the Liberals would do, namely, cut down the Militia expenditures by \$3,000,000 and spend that amount on technical education, there is little room for doubt as to which course would be followed if the people of Canada were given an opportunity to choose.

## CONSERVATISM IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE investigation by a Royal Commission into charges against the Provincial Conservative Government in New Brunswick, against Premier Flemming, the head of that Government, and against H. F. McLeod, the Conservative M. P. for York, N. B., has already revealed facts of the most unfortunate import. Under Conservative rule in New Brunswick there has apparently existed corruption unparalleled in any other Province of Canada unless it be in Manitoba under the Roblin-Rogers' Ministry.

The charges were made in the Legislature by Mr. L. A. Dugal, a Liberal member. Briefly, Mr. Dugal charged that through the agency of W. H. Berry, a Government employee, Mr. Flemming had extorted about \$100,000 from

Crown Land licensees in the Province; that, in the construction of the St. John Valley Railway under the Flemming Government, money had been improperly diverted and that contractors had been compelled to pay large sums to Premier Flemming and to Mr. McLeod when the latter was a member of the Provincial Cabinet.

Strangely enough, Mr. Berry and Mr. J. H. Corbett—the latter a contractor who was alleged to have paid Mr. Flemming \$10,000—disappeared from New Brunswick just about the time the Royal Commission began its inquiry. Both men are in the United States and while Mr. Berry is still an employee of the Province and Mr. Corbett still holds a contract under the Government the Ministers have done nothing to bring about their attendance at the investigation.

But even without the testimony of Mr. Berry, Mr. Dugal has been able to prove already that some \$70,000 was extorted from Crown Land licensees through the agency of the missing official. He has been able to prove, through sworn evidence, that the money was paid to E. R. Teed, a close associate of Premier Flemming. Moreover, it has been established under oath that, in the presence of Mr. Berry, this same Mr. Teed was introduced by Premier Flemming himself to one of the lumbermen who paid into the extortion fund and that with the introduction there went the Premier's assurance to the lumberman that "anything this man (Teed) tells you will be all right". It has been shown, too, that lumbermen paid under protest but made their payments because of their realization that as Crown Land licensees they were at the mercy of the Government.

So far the investigation into the charges in connection with the railway has been chiefly concerned with matters of intricate detail. Neither these charges nor the charges in connection with the extortion from timber licensees will have been fully investigated for some weeks yet. Already, however, enough evidence has been given in connection with the railway charges to lead the chairman of the commission, Mr. Justice McKeown, to express the opinion that a prima facie case of diversion of funds has been established by counsel for Mr. Dugal.