

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN PARLIAMENT.—February 3rd, 1916.

Machine Gun Contributions.—

Sir Sam Hughes told Mr. J. H. Sinclair, M.P., (Guysborough) that the sum of \$661,272.45 had been received by the Government from private sources to be expended in the purchase of machine guns; that a very large number of machine guns was ordered during the first 12 months of the War, but that it was inexpedient to state the exact number ordered or delivered; that it is the intention of the Government to apply to the purchase of machine guns the moneys which have been subscribed and paid in for that purpose.

A Minister of Munitions.—

Sir Robert Borden answering the question of Mr. Sinclair as to whether it is the intention of the Government to appoint a Minister of Munitions, gave the simple answer, "No."

Purchase of Horses.—

Sir Sam Hughes told W. F. Kay, (Missisquoi), that the total number of horses purchased by the Dominion Government from the out-break of War to Nov. 30th, 1915 was 24,672; that the average price paid was \$167.29; that no horses were bought during the month of November, 1915, and that the Government is not at the present time buying any horses for military purposes.

Hudson Bay Railway.—

Hon. P. E. Blondin, (for the Minister of Railways and Canals), told Hon. G. P. Graham that the total amount expended on the Hudson Bay Railway project up to Jan. 1st, 1916 was \$15,465,304.70; of this amount \$10,446,592 was spent on the railway, including \$683,166 for erection of trestles and culverts; and \$5,018,711 on harbor and approaches which included \$163,012 on bridges; that 378 miles of railway have been graded and steel laid to mile 242; and that it is expected that steel will reach Port Nelson early in 1917; that it is expected that the harbor will be ready for traffic, though incomplete, about the time that the railway will be ready for operation.

Farmers' Bank Depositors.—

Sir Thos. White told Hon. Mr. Lemieux that it is not the intention of the Government to introduce legislation during the present Session with a view to re-imbursing the depositors of the defunct Farmers' Bank.

Field Kitchens.—

Sir Sam Hughes told Hon. Frank Oliver that all the infantry battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces now in France and Belgium are fully supplied with travelling kitchens but that he could not say how many of these field kitchens were provided by public subscription as the supply provided in this way was a private and regimental matter and did not come before the Militia Department.

LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION.



A series of debates such as has not been known in Ontario in years is expected as the result of an offer made in the early part of the month to every club in the Federation. It has been the recognized policy since the outbreak of the War that the clubs affiliated with the Federation should hold no meet-

ings for the discussion of partisan politics, but rather that all the energies should be devoted to matters connected with the War. In order that each Club should be able to lay out a definite program that would be in harmony with that of other clubs, the Executive decided on a series of County debates and as an incentive will give to the winners in each county gold medals suitably engraved. The first county to take up the project is East Elgin and others are holding conferences to arrange for their districts.

An important district conference is being arranged for Aylmer and will be held toward the end of the month. There will be an afternoon conference and a banquet in the evening at which prominent speakers will give addresses. Mr. William Proudfoot, K.C., M.P.P. for the West Huron addressed the Clinton Liberal Club last month.

CUSTOMS REVENUE—(Duty Collected).

Month	1913	1914	1915
Jan.....	\$ 8,862,982	\$ 7,029,888	\$ 5,125,009
Feb.....	9,152,220	6,822,925	6,919,560
March.....	11,912,314	9,337,771	8,557,853
April.....	8,463,576	6,458,271	5,986,662
May.....	10,306,244	7,619,746	7,255,412
June.....	9,684,724	7,414,597	7,409,238
July.....	10,077,223	6,988,917	7,431,158
Aug.....	10,125,376	8,358,948	8,430,565
Sept.....	9,906,183	6,016,606	7,904,995
Oct.....	9,198,657	5,657,871	8,201,830
Nov.....	8,346,778	5,113,062	9,440,315
Dec.....	7,845,300	4,953,048	9,060,181

Total, 12 months. \$113,881,577 \$81,771,650 \$91,722,778

In connection with Customs Revenue it should be noted that the increase in collections in 1915 is not necessarily due altogether to the "horizontal" increase of 7½% in Customs taxes which took effect in March, 1915. Supplies imported for the Militia Department for use by the soldiers in Canada pay Customs duty and the Militia Department has to pay that duty, the price of the contractor being increased to the extent of the duty. Also, manufacturers making munitions of war have to pay duty on their imported materials. This duty is refunded to the extent of 99% when the munitions are exported from Canada. Customs collections which are paid by the Government through the Militia Department, or which are refunded later, do not add to the net revenue of the people of Canada.

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