

SIR SAM HUGHES

Sir Sam Hughes, in an address at Lindsay last week, maintained his reputation for tireless energy and wild talking. He defended the Ross rifle, although Lord Northcliffe, in an instructive article in last week's Saturday Evening Post, directly hinted that it was "the wrong rifle." He told what had been done for Canada and the Empire while he was minister of militia. He gave the old Shell Committee another pat on the back. He predicted that, properly fostered, the fish trade might reach a value in 10 years of \$500,000,000. He painted a lurid picture of an alleged attempt of his cabinet colleagues to destroy him. He predicted a crash when the war is over and modestly intimated that until "some person with enterprise and energy came in to develop things in the country, people would not be able to get money."

He intimated that his love for Mr. J. W. Flavell, Sir George Perley, and Sir Thomas White had gone never to return. From Sir Thomas White he took all credit for the successful flotation of the war loans, placing that credit entirely upon the bankers, ignoring the finance department and the bond houses. He accused Sir Thomas White of sweetening the newspapers by securing newsprint at a fixed price and placing "rich" war loan advertisements paid for by "the poor people" of Canada. "With the business management of the finance department I will deal on another occasion," said Sir Sam. We imagine that the finance minister is not terror stricken by that promise. Sir Thomas White is one of the few cabinet ministers at Ottawa whose ability and happy combination of courage and caution have won for him the high regard of people of both political parties and of independent voters. Sir Sam is petting his imaginary grievances.

GREATER FOOD PRODUCTION

In Canada, the cost of foodstuffs has rapidly increased during the war. In normal times, the cost of living is usually high when times are prosperous. The present prosperity on this continent is due chiefly to war. The high living costs are in part a result of that prosperity but, what is more important, they are due largely to the abnormal demand for all kinds of supplies. So long as the people are able to meet the higher living costs with higher wages, they are apt to overlook the fact that unless a great acreage is put to crop in 1917, there will be world hunger before the 1918 crop is harvested.

In Europe, food restrictions are severe. In Great Britain, they are becoming more numerous. In Germany, the people are undernourished almost to starvation. Forty million men are either killed, wounded or on active service and 20,000,000 men and women are supporting them by service in other war activities. Over one million tons of food-carrying ships have been torpedoed since February 1st. The British and French missions to Washington have put before the United States as one of the most important war problems, the question of the food supply.

The Organization of Resources Committee of the Ontario government prints elsewhere in this issue a summary of the food conditions as they exist throughout the world. It is not enough to read this statement without taking action. The problem vitally affects the dinner table of every Canadian citizen. The man who grows his vegetable supply in the back yard, the man who cultivates

his 5 or 10 acres, does his bit to help solve the food problem. Efforts here and there for greater production will not meet the situation. Universal effort throughout the Dominion is needed. "Every pound of food raised in the Dominion is another spike in the torpedo-tubes of the German submarine," said the British director general of food economy, in an interview on Tuesday. "To achieve that complete victory, which alone will satisfy every part of the Empire," he added, "we must rely on Canada for a cereal crop that will represent the cultivation of every acre by every available man, woman, boy and girl." The grower of twenty bags of potatoes helps feed his family and releases somebody else's potatoes for the Allies. To produce food in large or small quantities this year will prove a remunerative, patriotic, and vitally necessary work.

WINNIPEG PAINT AND GLASS COMPANY

The Winnipeg Paint and Glass Company's annual report shows cash on hand and material, raw or in process of manufacture, amounting to \$759,852, or \$58,000 in excess of a year previously. The moneys held in investments were \$686,279, as against \$768,370 the previous year. In plant, equipment, etc., the company has \$320,236.22 invested, as against \$323,368.96 at the time of the previous report.

The company's current liabilities amount to \$476,357.75, which must be placed over against \$472,203.36, the similar item a year previously.

CANADA'S BANK CLEARINGS

The following are the bank clearings for the weeks ended April 26th, 1917, and April 27th, 1916, respectively:—

	Week ended Apr. 26, '17.	Week ended Apr. 27, '16.	Changes.
Montreal	\$ 90,980,586	\$ 49,152,771	+ \$ 41,827,815
Toronto	67,181,431	38,128,675	+ 29,052,756
Winnipeg	71,825,875	33,999,514	+ 37,826,361
Vancouver	8,024,202	4,339,777	+ 3,684,425
Ottawa	5,707,057	3,793,885	+ 1,913,172
Calgary	7,653,637	3,109,645	+ 4,543,992
Hamilton	4,783,505	3,051,516	+ 1,731,989
Quebec	4,887,089	3,149,911	+ 1,737,178
Edmonton	2,662,949	1,789,247	+ 873,702
Halifax	3,196,784	1,937,831	+ 1,258,953
London	2,095,503	1,497,150	+ 598,353
Regina	2,832,775	1,361,523	+ 1,471,252
St. John	2,231,026	1,476,659	+ 754,367
Victoria	1,668,413	972,580	+ 695,833
Saskatoon	1,802,134	827,522	+ 974,612
Moose Jaw	1,259,637	649,544	+ 610,093
Brandon	558,892	433,754	+ 125,138
Brantford	811,942	550,876	+ 261,066
Fort William	491,089	396,812	+ 94,277
Lethbridge	995,620	368,760	+ 626,860
Medicine Hat	791,506	271,715	+ 519,791
New Westminster	321,588	104,438	+ 127,150
Peterboro	629,379	392,666	+ 236,713
Sherbrooke	638,932	470,944	+ 167,988
Kitchener	620,884	397,639	+ 223,245
Totals	\$284,652,435	\$152,715,354	+ \$131,937,081

NEW WESTMINSTER'S BANK CLEARINGS

The bank clearings of New Westminster for March were \$1,107,323, an increase over the same month of last year of \$108,512. Owing to an error in transmission the figures previously given showed a decrease.

The electors of Colchester South, Ont., endorsed a by-law by which Messrs. J. Wall and Company, Windsor, will establish a canning factory. The company will be exempt from taxation for 10 years other than school, war and local improvement taxation.