

SIR SAM CLAIMS BRITISH OFFICERS OVERBEARING

TO WIN THE WAR SIR SAM'S CHIEF PURPOSE

Former Minister of Militia Tells of Difficulties Canadians Had With Certain British Officers — Reads Letter He Wrote to Premier and Relates How He Overcame Other Difficulties

(Continued from page 1)

"My way," asserted Sir Sam, "is not strewn with milestones to assassinated friends." "It might not be amiss," he continued, "to inform the public and the house, that Canada and Britain are engaged in a war to the death; that I shall stand by party, where party interests are the people's and the soldiers' interests, but where the party falls in its duty, especially to the soldiers, then I shall not hesitate to endeavor to have it try done by my friends." Why the reproach to me by many is that I "desert a friend," "But to break with the dear good fellows of the great Liberal-Conservative party," he proceeded with a catch in his voice, "would wrench me almost as much as to stir the war. It pains me to see, however, that party feeling, party prejudice are so strong in Canada with non-essentials."

Cannon Jarred Him.

Sir Sam said he had been specially invited to cast in his lot with the Liberal party. "In all love and kindness," he proceeded, "let me say the idea shocked me. To assist in placing a statesman of even Sir Wilfrid Laurier's high character in power with the principles announced by his authorization in Dorchester and have Canada depend on his ideals for the conduct and the settlement of the war, would be repugnant to my very soul. Whatever my course today may be and whatever the effort to me may be, my determination has expressed my conclusion—the active, energetic conduct of the war to a victorious conclusion."

Sir Sam said he thought Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have called off his candidate in Dorchester and that Sir Robert Borden should have repudiated the opinions expressed by Hon. Mesdames Selwyn and Blonfin during the campaign. "I wonder," he said, "that the people of the County of Dorchester did not throw both parties out of Canada had a more important duty than growing harvests, supplying the munitions and providing bread for the soldiers."

For Partnership Union.

The ex-minister reviewed his former plans for partnership union of Great Britain and her overseas dominions. He took the position now that the Motherland should have control of its own soldiers and Canada should have control of hers. He remarked that Sir Sam Lavergne had been anxious to raise a battalion and go to the front but had held that the militia act should be enforced. He had always opposed sending troops abroad under the voluntary system and had held that the war should be sent by the government of Canada under the militia act.

Sir Sam referred to the alleged dissensions in the cabinet. They had never "fought like blazes," he said. The finance minister had on one occasion objected to the manner in which Sir Sam and other ministers were spending money. "I told him his proper function was not to meddle but to raise revenue and keep the country buoyant and prosperous," said Sir Sam.

"Later on I showed him how it could be done."

Turning to the matter of military purchases Sir Sam recalled the war to produce a record of good buying, with one exception, as the purchase of supplies for the first contingent. The solitary exception had been the purchase of trucks and bicycles by Mr. T. A. Russell who had been recommended by Sir Thomas White as an old business associate.

Status of Canadian Forces.

Sir Sam then went on to speak of the status of the Canadian forces and to quote various authorities to prove that the dominion had power to call out 300,000 men if it deemed such a number necessary and send them overseas in an emergency. Beyond her border, how these forces, Canadian authority for management and control was wanting except by adoption of the army act. But British military law, especially the army act, gave that authority to Canada and the Canadian forces were thus in no sense "British regulars."

Sir Sam devoted some time to the elaboration of his scheme of compulsory service under the provisions of the militia act. He went at length into the provisions of the Canadian act as well as the provisions of the British army act governing the use of colonial troops in the imperial service. He concluded that under the law as it now stood, it was perfectly feasible to call out 300,000 men of military age in Canada for home training and he believed that they would voluntarily be ready to go on overseas service after a few months training. In any event, the law already gave the government authority both for calling the men out and for including them in the expeditionary force. According to the census returned, he believed that there were about 750,000 single men of military age available in Canada. The adoption of this method, would, he believed, meet with approval in the province of Quebec.

Voting at Front.

Sir Sam further noted that under the law, soldiers on enlistment forfeited none of their civilian rights. If Canada, for instance, wanted to have her soldiers at the front vote in case an election was brought on there was full authority for making provision for that and Great Britain had no right to interfere. Nor had Great Britain under any of the laws now in existence any right to interfere with Canada's control of her own soldiers. The principles underlying all the regulations was the principle of autonomy for the overseas dominions. Sir Robert Borden had intimated in his speech in the course of the present debate, that if ever a committee of war office experts made recommendations he was prepared to accept their opinions, and Sir Sam put the opinion of the cabinet against such expert military opinion. Sir Sam said that he believed in sticking to his own opinion, and he had taken occasion to directly intimate to British "experts" that the "halo" of off their heads long ago. A young sprig of a British officer had been responsible for the throwing aside of the Canadian equipment. Sir Sam had promptly taken issue with this decision and he had finally won out. Canadian trucks as a result were now being used in England after having been discarded for a time. Canada, he declared, was fully able to decide for itself as to its own equipment for its own troops.

Too Busy Swearing.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley interposed to ask whether Sir Sam could give any estimate as to total value of the Canadian equipment discarded in England.

"We didn't pay any attention at the time to value, we were too busy swearing," replied Sir Sam amid laughter.

The object of his whole fight for Canadian autonomy in regard to the control of the troops, declared the ex-minister, had been in reality to preserve the basis of imperial unity. For that principle, he had given up the best years of his life and his best energies. "I am going to stand or fall by the rights of Canada under the constitution. That principle is in the best interests of Canada itself. It is in the best interests of the Empire," he declared with some emotion. "Because it had been disregarded by some British officers in authority there had been serious talk among the men at the front of another Boston tea-party. There had been suggestions that heads would be punched if Canadian rights were not regarded."

Kowtowed Too Much.

"Most of our Canadian in Great Britain," he added, "have kowtowed too much to British officers. There has been one striking exception to that rule, and this is General Frank McNeil of Montreal. As a result, he has got along better than any of the others."

General Hughes then referred briefly to the Canadian medical services. "I have nothing very much to say about this subject today," he stated, "but when the time comes I will have both hands in it up to the elbows." He pointed out, however, that as the medical services had been administered by General Jones it had taken three weeks to find out where Canadian soldiers were, so scattered had they been in one hospital or another.

Held Girls' Hands.

Canada had been paying seventy-five cents per day per soldier to have the brows of Canadian kids smoothed and their hands held by young girls with six months' training in some St. John's ambulance association.

Sir Sam then took up the matter of the second Canadian division and read the following letter which he had sent to the British war lord in connection with the whole matter of Gen. Steele's appointment.

"Am somewhat surprised at your cipher April 1st. Am not in habit of deceiving and Steele will certainly know exact situation. Am not dictating, merely reviewing. I know many

of your major generals; some good and capable, but many absolutely reverse, far inferior for administration of office and capability in field to Steele or a dozen other of my officers. Have calmly and loyally remained aloof from interference with Salisbury horror and disintegration of first Canadians, but please do not too much be borne.

Claims No Authority.

"Claim no authority to manage force in field but under army act Canada has absolute authority in respect of appointments. Further, of fitness and contemptuousness of some army officers in first division became almost intolerable. I look to you to see that courtesy, even handed justice and fairness are accorded to all my deserving officers."

Sir Sam then outlined his plans for purchasing supplies in Canada for the Dominion and for her allies, stating they had worked out well, much better than the system of purchase adopted by the government of the cabinet which afterwards taken over this work. After praising the shell committee as having produced most of the prosperity which enabled the finance minister to get money when he wanted, Sir Sam went on to refer to what he said was a personal contract entered by Mr. T. A. Russell with military affairs.

Russell's "Interference."

After describing the part played by Mr. Russell in motor truck purchases, he stated the latter had complained to Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier of the actions of the shell committee and had given Sir Wilfrid Laurier an article for publication in the Toronto Globe.

Sir Wilfrid denied this statement, but said another person had given him such an article. He had not sent it to the Globe.

Sir Sam recalled that Mr. Russell's attacks on the shell committee had all been done for the purpose of getting rid of the shell committee. "Mr. Thomas was brought in and I promptly trimmed him in twenty-four hours. Then when the Imperial Munitions Board got control, Russell was given a contract at a price that was \$235,000 more than a Montreal firm took a similar order for. You can call it what you like, graft, or anything else."

Sir Sam did not develop this alleged conspiracy further, but left it at that.

Letter to Sir Robert.

As to his charge in his letter of resignation about the delays in the matter of the purchase of motor trucks and other supplies, Sir Sam read to the house a letter which he had written to Sir Robert Borden on May 13th, 1915. This letter in part as follows: "Dated May 13, 1915.

"Dear Sir Robert: "Since my return from England last November I have repeatedly notified you that owing to the interference and plans of the so-called sub-committee and to the repeated hold-ups and needless objections of some of my colleagues in the affairs of this department, the contracts branch has been very much hampered and practically blocked; delays have been very prolonged; the cost has been greatly enhanced and the goods and services have been in many cases inferior. Indeed the most ardent agents of the German government could scarcely have been more successful in holding up the proper equipment of our forces, had they been in control."

Truck Question.

"As one of many specific examples, take the trucks for the second division. They should have been ready last December; the minister of defence, some of my colleagues constituted themselves champions of this or that truck and brought about delays whereby untried trucks would be purchased; high prices would be paid in commissions to agents; and the government and the country would be created, practically, as a retailer. My policy, you may remember in this and all other matters, was to force dealers to give the government wholesale or manufacturers' rates."

"At the present time there are upwards of one hundred requisitions that have long been in. The quarter-master-general has, over and over again, until his heart has grown sick, brought them before me; they have been promptly passed on to the director of contracts; and the great majority of them, when passed on to the privy council, have been held up in council or by the treasury board, laid aside or sent back—but always delayed; while the director of contracts and his officers have been, unceasingly, interfering with, delayed and given unnecessary work by the sub-committee."

Equipment and Supplies.

"I saw by an article in the Free Press that it was current talk everywhere, among the soldiers and officers, that they are short of nearly every class of equipment and supplies. In fact three times recently

have been severely reproached about shortages in supplies and equipment by our own officers and learned of these shortages from soldiers and officers of the force.

"Further, to my surprise, I was spoken to in Montreal this week and I find that our medical units going over were only half equipped, with many of our combatant units are not properly outfitted."

"In addition to the serious aspect of the case, and from the viewpoint of the efficiency of our soldiers there is the disheartening side. It is not only unfair to the gallant boys who are giving and willingly risking their lives for the cause, and making do with domestic sacrifices, but it is absolutely unjust to me and to my officers."

Enters Protests.

"Therefore, as minister of militia, must respectfully enter my protests as I have frequently before entered it at the interference and delays caused in all these things. It tends not only to the injury and inefficiency of our soldiers, thus jeopardizing the success of British arms, but it must also politically reflect seriously upon the government."

"It is charged that the sub-committee have given contracts for soldiers' clothing to be made by jobbers who sublet them and never entered a stitch themselves. Women's linen underwear, women's blouse makers, women's coat makers and trouser makers all have been among these contractors."

"I regret to have to submit these facts once more, but in justice both to myself as well as to the splendid soldiers we are endeavoring to equip at the front, I must ask your serious consideration of these matters."

"I have but one desire, the upbuilding of Canada, the empire and humanity."

"Let me hope that you will regard this letter as written with due respect to myself, my country, to you as my leader, and in justice to our soldiers."

"Faithfully Sam Hughes" (Sgd.)

Not Autocratic.

"I have been charged with being autocratic," declared Sir Sam. "I prime minister's step that exceeded my constitutional right. I was in command under the law, and I had to exercise command. We had to ginger up everything. They all had to be driven. They had to be shown that was not an occasion for pink tea training. There were some officers who spent their time in pink tea parties every afternoon. I had to stop that sort of thing. I had to stop all the petticoat influence and the pull of every kind. As a result the army that went from Canada was a democratic and efficient army."

Not After Scapls.

What I am after, he added, is the successful prosecution of the war. I am not after scapls. They'll come quick enough.

As to recruiting methods he deplored the fact that his system of recruiting by companies during the winter had been departed from and that it had been decided not to authorize more battalions.

Is Still Conservative.

The ex-minister then concluded: "Will I back the Tory government and party? Yes, I will gladly back the Tory government and the Tory party, but the platform must be broader than 'Keep Laurier and the Grigs out' and action must be something different from epileptic utterances and theories re the labor wanted at home and other such delusions. There are in Canada millions of mothers, fathers and children of the 300,000 boys across the water who are wondering what Canada is doing to support what Canada wants another hundred thousand men. They can be raised. They must be raised. I will back any party whose interests are the best for the welfare of our soldiers and the energetic, successful prosecution of the war to a victorious conclusion at any cost."

No Dread of Quebec.

"I have no dread of Quebec province and compulsory service. In my heart I feel that our compatriots of Quebec province will, should the militia act be applied and following their wish for an even handed compulsory service, be found to respond loyally and well."

Sir Thomas White.

Sir Thomas White said that he did not believe any one in the House would believe him capable of intriguing against anyone, much less a colleague. "Further," he continued, "if the ex-minister of militia believes that I intrigued against him—and I don't think he does—then all I have to say is that the strain of the last two years has impaired the strength of what was once a very strong mind." The Finance Minister said that it was true that his half-brother was president of the Montreal Mail and Montreal Daily News and that twenty-five years ago he himself had been connected with the Toronto Telegram. If those newspapers had attacked the ex-minister of militia they had not done so at his instigation. "He was my colleague," asserted the Finance Minister "and I always gave him a generous measure of my support in his policy and plans for the improvement of the Canadian militia, in which, like him, I always had a true and deep interest."

Moreover, when he had become finance minister he had thought it proper to dispose of all securities of companies in Canada which he had held. Sir Thomas said that after the transport had been purchased he had heard that a commission had been paid on a purchase from the Canada Car Company. Mr. Russell, however, had appeared before the treasury board and had given an explanation which had been most satisfactory.

Some Conflict.

Referring to Sir Sam Hughes' statement that he had sometimes come into conflict with the Minister of Finance in regard to the preparation of estimates for departments, Sir Thomas said that in a degree that was true. The Finance Minister was held to have a greater responsibility than other ministers for the preparation of

estimates. Sir Sam Hughes had performed a notable achievement in assembling 35,000 men at Valcartier, equipping them, giving them preliminary training and sending them overseas in a few weeks. In that work the ex-minister of militia had had the support of all his colleagues. "We got along so well," continued Sir Thomas White, "that he even offered to make me an honorary colonel. I regret to say, however, that I was obliged to decline the offer because I lacked the necessary military qualifications." In the hurry of getting the first contingent away the government could not stand on legality and allowed the minister of militia to go ahead and purchase equipment.

Lists of Contracts.

The war appropriation act had, however, provided that the war appropriation should be expended by or under the authority of the governor-in-council, and he had asked that a complete list of contracts already made be laid before council for ratification, and that all future contracts and expenditure be entered into and made only after council had passed the necessary orders under the authority of the act.

"On January 11, 1915, Sir Thomas said he had written again to the prime minister, suggesting that in view of the grave financial situation particular attention be given to the matter of saving unnecessary expenditures in connection with the administration of the militia department during the war. The finance minister suggested that everything which might be considered an extra and not really required for the equipment or comfort of the troops should be omitted. All items of this kind be carefully scrutinized."

"I think the minister should name those items," suggested Hon. Wm. Pugsley. Sir Sam Hughes also expressed the opinion that Sir Thomas name one.

Disagreed With Hughes.

"What I had in mind was a shovel," replied the finance minister. He did not agree with Sir Sam Hughes that an overseas minister of militia was unnecessary and proceeded to read letters which he had written to the prime minister in reference to the supervision of expenditures in Great Britain. He had finally proposed the appointment of a commission with Sir George Perley at its head, whose authorization would be required before any contract or expenditure for supplies was made. That commission should be directly responsible to the government."

Sir Thomas thought that this letter indicated his desire to safeguard the public treasury. He said that he and the auditor-general had visited England and he had returned much reassured as to the situation there.

Honest Administration.

The administration there had been on the whole an honest one, and the officials there had done well considering the system with which they had had to contend. On October 30 last, the finance minister said he had again addressed a letter to the prime minister. In it Sir Thomas announced that he was "of the opinion that the time had arrived when we should have a minister of overseas services."

"No system of administration through officials," continued the letter, "will be satisfactory, as the principle of responsibility to parliament and the people will be lacking and grave irregularities are bound to arise for which the government, and every member thereof will be accountable."

Sir Thomas said that in his suggestion that the minister of overseas services be appointed, he had had in mind the appointment of an overseas minister, but wanted Sir Max Aitken appointed.

Sir Sam intervened with the statement that he had proposed to give Sir Max the rank of privy councillor, but not to appoint him as minister.

Safeguarded the Finances.

Sir Thomas continuing said that he had considered his duty to safeguard the finances of the country, and would rest his case on the letters before the House.

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The Overseas Minister.

Reverting to the discussion of the appointment of the overseas minister, Sir Thomas read from Sir Sam Hughes' letter to the prime minister on October 26 last the statement "I would be more than proud to support the proposition with all my heart and all my power if you will fill in the name of Sir Max Aitken." As to the alleged delay in the purchase of the motor trucks for the second division, the finance minister said his recollection was that a question had been raised as to the most desirable type of truck and a committee had been appointed to decide that question. The settlement of that question was the cause of any delay which had occurred.

Sir Thomas White said that there had been a lot of talk during the debate about patronage, appointments and nationalism which appeared idle when one considered that the country was in the midst of the greatest war in history and that the flower of its youth was at the front or preparing to go there.

Played Notable Part.

There had been some lack of leadership and about slackness in carrying on Canada's part in the war. "I say and history will show," proceeded the minister, "that there is no room for national self-depreciation and that the people and government of Canada have played a notable part in the war." Canada had recruited, equipped and trained an army of 425,000 men. The only people who had been belittled that achievement were partisans. "It was not belittled in London or in New York," Sir Thomas said that the government's aim had been to maintain financial, industrial and commercial stability in Canada and that confidence which was the basis of prosperity.

Country Prosperous.

The prosperity of the country was the best evidence that confidence had been maintained. The government was not like the member for Victoria (Mr. E. M. MacDonald), worrying about who would get the credit; it was too much engaged in endeavoring to get results. Sir Thomas pointed to the action of the government in arranging the credits of \$250,000,000 for the imperial government which without those credits would not be able, because of exchange conditions, to continue purchasing munitions and supplies in Canada. He spoke of the growth of the munition industry and gave Sir Sam Hughes' credit for originating the idea of the shell committee. No other belligerent country was enjoying such prosperity as Canada. The trade of Canada which the year before the war amounted to \$1,000,000,000 would during the present year reach twice that amount. Moreover there would be a balance of trade of \$300,000,000 in favor of the Dominion.

Seriousness of War.

In conclusion Sir Thomas pointed out that members of the house should approach the consideration of public business in a spirit of realization of the seriousness of the war. There were required in Canada organization of man-power, mobilization of vital industries, saving. There should be no public or private extravagance, and there should be self-denial and self-sacrifice. There was no room for self-depreciation but the country could do better than it had. He believed that with the efforts which would be put forward by Great Britain the British dominions and their allies the war would be won this year.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley followed.

The St. John member argued that instead of spending vast sums of money abroad the government should have paid more attention to the development of Canada's natural resources such as mining and ship-building.

"Perhaps the government will let us know what's in the rumor that the minister of public works is going to England with the prime minister and that when they come back there will be no business but immediate dissolution?"

Mr. Rogers—"I might as well put my hon. friend's mind at rest at once."

The Provincial Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire are to meet in quarterly session at the Elks' Club at two o'clock this afternoon. All members of the chapter are eligible and a large representation from throughout the province is expected. Afternoon tea will be served by the local chapters and a very interesting session is anticipated.

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Gilmour's \$25, \$20, \$15 Ready-tailored Suits

Are selected to suit the tastes and requirements of the outdoor man, the professional man, the indoor worker, the young man who demands style in every line of his suit, and elderly men who require comfort.

Odd suits, sizes 34 to 41, sacks and Norfolk, are being cleared at \$10 and \$15, reduced from \$15 to \$25. Any of these is truly a bargain, particularly if it helps to fill the bill.

GILMOUR'S 68 King Street.

DIED.

McGOWAN—At Port Arthur, Texas, U. S. A., Patrick McGowan, leaving one brother and one sister, interred in Calvary cemetery, Port Arthur, Texas.

WATSON—In this city, on the 29th inst., Mary Elizabeth, aged nineteen years, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Watson, Hampstead. Funeral at Hampstead, Wednesday, the 31st, at 2 p. m.

He can depend that the house will be called back in the spring and that parliament will go on and do business. When the prime minister goes to England he will have the sympathy and support of the people of the country, who are all united to serve the Empire in every possible way and that he can carry to the King a guarantee of every reasonable sacrifice to carry the war to a successful conclusion."

Mr. Bellemare, Conservative, Mas-kington, spoke briefly. He stated that he was absolutely opposed to conscription. Were compulsion to be adopted, said the Maskington member, the first 150,000 soldiers that raised would be recruited, not at the front, but along the American boundary to keep the rest of Canada from going across it to escape conscription.

On the conclusion of Mr. Bellemare's speech the address in reply to the speech from the throne was made by Hon. J. D. Hazen and carried and the house adjourned at 10.30.

Special to The Standard.

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Life's Trial Balance

Fill out these blanks—you'll find it interesting—

1. My total income is \$.....
2. Deduct my personal expenditures.....
3. Balance which is annual income needed to support my family.....
4. Estate required to yield needed income for No. 3 at 5 per cent. (20 times No. 3).....
5. Cash value of my estate to-day.....
6. Add amount which my present life insurance will provide in event of my death.....
7. Total value of estate now provided for.....
8. Amount of additional life insurance needed.....

Well, how does it size up? For your credit's sake now, wouldn't you like to see your wife and family provided for? Then write for particulars of The Imperial Home Protection Policy.

THE IMPERIAL LIFE Assurance Company of Canada

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO

L. J. Lowe, Provincial Manager, St. John

THE SENATOR U. S. V.

In Debate on Statesman But Wants

Washington, Jan. 30.—(debate in the senate today) Wilson's word peace Senator Cummins, Republican declared that to do what suggests would involve States either in almost a war or constant rebellion authority of world government proposed.

Asserting that he stood student in every moral for him to exert to bring the present war, Senator said he refused to follow the leads the way toward sovereignty which he has

Ham Lewis' Reso.

Before Senator Cummins speaking Senator Lewis, whip, most prominent supporter of the president's peace introduced a resolution temporarily laid on the table that the address which senator criticized, did not mention the doctrine of military aggression in the United States in foreign

Senator Cummins spoke his resolution, which was for exclusive debate of the peace address, but he said that phase to discuss it.

SHEEP-RAISING INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 1)

other and farm worth standing bacon hog. Before starting in to be necessary to consult which was to be raised a to that particular breed as it would be better to go money breeding. He also the breeding so as to have along all the time as them put on the market.

It would cost a little more pigs in this way but worth the extra amount. A young sow should not rule be bred under 15 months and she should not be too young time.

Feeding of Hog. If potatoes were fed should be cooked; other might be fed raw. Fat pigs cracked oats made a very breeding sows could be sure all summer at a very and kept in good condition man were feeding for man should be given some corn as well as the pasture food. A hog should be given would eat and no certain to be set. The most profitable equal parts of ground corn and middlings with milk possible.

He gave it as his opinion young pigs should be weaned six weeks of age. One easy thing in the raising practice.

Regularity in feeding practiced.

Victoria Co. Cro Donald Innes presenter of Victoria county. He re

Bringing