

THE RESIGNATION SIR SAM HUGHES.

Ottawa, November 11, 1916.

"Dear Sir Robert :—

"Your letter of November 9th is at hand and it affords me much satisfaction to now tender you my resignation; indeed, my letter of November 1st rendered it impossible for me to remain your colleague unless you concurred in its correctness.

Closed His Eyes to Intrigues.

"For a long time I have retained the portfolio of Militia only that I might the better help the soldiers in training and at the front and to do the best I could towards winning the war, which is all that mattered. I have closed my eyes to the petty intrigues and ambitions about me. It is my intention still to devote my energies to the interests of those who have done so much to maintain the great cause of human liberty.

The Premier Untrue to Sir Sam.

"It is not necessary to analyze, in detail, all disappointing matters in my association with you. You state in the second paragraph of your letter of November 9th: 'I have done my utmost to support you in the administration of your department.'

"This is pleasing news to me, but I learn it now for the first time. Your statement that I had a 'strong tendency to assume powers which you do not possess and which can only be exercised by the Governor-in-Council,' is also news to me. True, from the opening of Valcartier camp such things were done with your full knowledge and authority. Upon my representations to you that the formation of the force would be seriously delayed were every petty detail to be brought before Privy Council, you acquiesced in my recommendation that we should proceed without Orders-in-Council in matters of urgency and that they should be passed afterwards. This was done and has never been deviated from. War cannot be successfully waged on the tactics of a lawsuit.

"Your statement that 'my time and energies, although urgently needed for much more important duties, have been very frequently employed in removing difficulties thus unnecessarily created,' is, also, news to me. Why was I not informed of it? If you mean your time was given up to listening to the complaints of disappointed or overstrung people—I can understand it. In war time in all countries criticism of all measures abounds. In the eyes of some everything done is 'wrong.' I, too, had more than my fair share of uninformed criticism even from well-meaning friends.

Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce Ignored Council.

"Your statement further that: 'You seemed actuated by a desire and even an intention to administer your department as if it were a distinct and separate government in itself,' is also news to me. It is true that I did not always attend Council to see my recommendations through; I was engaged in other work, but if you will permit me to make a comparison I have yet to learn where once the Finance Minister of Canada brought before Council any proposed loan for the Dominion of Canada or any single important Act concerning the administration of that department. The same observations apply to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Took Four Months to Settle Principles of Purchasing for Second Division.

"Moreover, it is difficult for me to recall where you have actively supported me in the passage of any Order-in-Council concerning the upbuilding of the militia when opposed by two members of the Cabinet usually antagonistic to anything proposed by me. As you are aware, it took us four months in the midst of this great war to fight through the principles of purchasing for the Second Division trucks at the lowest wholesale prices instead of allowing large commissions to local agents who would have nothing whatever to do with securing the order.