

GOVERNMENT IS RASPED ON MANY SCORES IN HOUSE

Nickle and Sam Hughes Are Critical Regarding Military Affairs.

COCKSHUTT ON WAR-PATH

Makes Charge Against the Premier—Nesbitt and Sutherland Scrap.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

OTTAWA, April 18.—If there is a Union Government in Canada, it is not visible in the Commons today. In the old days—before "the best elements of all parties" (to quote the lofty words of Sir Robert Borden) had joined hands and hearts in a coalition with the war Government and Opposition members have frequently engaged in violent tiffs at arms, and many personal remarks were hurled across the floor of the House. But seldom, even in the old days, have there been so many tiffs at arms between Government and Opposition as there were today between individual members of the Government itself.

Seldom have so many personal remarks been hurled across the floor as were hurled from one point to the other—all on the right of the speaker—this afternoon and evening. Seldom has the Government been attacked more severely by the Opposition than it was attacked today by its own followers. Unionist-Liberal fought with Unionist-Conservative, while the Opposition, anxious to expedite business, but not averse to witnessing a good vaudeville performance, looked across the floor at the smoke of battle, and smiled.

Gen. Sam Leads the Raid. It all started when certain members of the Opposition requested to be told of the relations which exist between

the overseas and the Canadian minister of militia in the matter of the supervision of the Canadian expeditionary force. General Newburn was forthrightly asked to ask the Government question: "Who is the army commander over the Canadian troops?" General Newburn dropped his eyes, stammered and blushed, and finally, after a long pause, declared, "I am sorry, I can't answer that question off-hand. The interesting prelude to tomorrow's serious debate commenced."

Sticks With Laverne. General Hughes was buckled all over the lot. He defended Laverne as being a "good fellow." He declared that under the present administration (since he had left) many senior appointments had been made in the army by favoritism. And he talked about Canadian autonomy.

Then Edwards of Frontenac from the same side of the House asked what Sir Sam Hughes had done "to warrant us in taking his judgment in preference to the judgment of Hall and Foch. General Hughes has made a lot of people honorary colonels and they are so credit to Canada."

General Hughes for the thousandth time again reiterated his intention of those honorary colonels, to wit, Wesley Allison, and ventured the opinion that he would one day be a baronet. Then Sir Sam got into action once more and bitterly assailed the opinion of the House that the Government had been made in the person of M. E. Nicholls.

Suspicious of Outfit. "I must say," he said, "that I am suspicious of the whole outfit, when I learned that Mr. Nicholls was a half-brother of Sir Thomas White. It appears that Mr. Nicholls was accused of writing articles in the Montreal Mail with the object of attacking Sir Robert Borden, and of making Sir Thomas prime minister."

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux from the Opposition side declared that the appointment of a director of public information was indefensible, and attacked Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux's whole press bureau. He declared that the Canadian War Record had, at the time of its publication, been prostituted for the purpose of vitally attacking the Liberal leader.

Two More Flare Up. Reference to the Canadian War Record roused the ire of two more Government supporters in the person of W. F. Cockshutt of Brantford and Donald Sutherland of Oxford, both of whom had brother soldier-candidates in the field at the last election, both of whose names had been mysteriously left off the War Record at the front. The premier labored long to explain this

strange coincidence, but neither would take any explanation. Mr. Cockshutt turned his guns directly on the premier, and the latter bit his mustache and flushed darkly.

"I do not wish to accuse the powers of doing anything, unfair or unjust, when we are fighting with our backs to the wall, and our boys are dying by the thousand at the front," he declared. "I want to back the Government in its war-time measures, but I do say that they were derelict in their duty." He thereupon directly charged that the names of the soldiers' candidates had been deliberately left off the list.

Charles Borden and Rowell, "I think it is up to me," he declared, "to let the prime minister and the president of the privy council (Mr. Rowell) know, because I think he was a party in the matter, that I thought at the outset that certain men were marked for the slaughter, and that is just how it did turn out. Whether this was a deal between gentlemen, I am not in a position to know, because I am not in the inner circle, I am only a back-bencher. But I feel it my duty to say to the premier and the president of the privy council that if it were not for winning the war I could not support them in this occasion." (Applause from the Opposition.)

The premier desired to give the implication of Mr. Cockshutt "the strongest denial that parliamentary usage would permit."

Then ensued a violent controversy between the premier and Mr. Cockshutt on the question of whether the Cockshutt family had been fairly dealt with or not. Mr. Cockshutt informed his leader that he had no right to read him a lecture, because he had been in the political game before he was. He was aware, however, that his views did not carry much weight with the premier.

Then Mr. Rowell denied any part in the alleged conspiracy to keep the names of soldier candidates off the list. H. M. Mowat of Parkdale, the name of whose soldier-opponent had been left off the list, contributed an interesting feature to the debate by the remark that the War Veterans were unable to "be a little nervous in certain matters." He attacked the Toronto Telegram as attempting to wreck "Union."

Sutherland Bangs Nesbitt. Then Sutherland of Oxford accused Mr. Nesbitt, cons. Unionist, of coming from Oxford, of having made an appeal to the German electorate in his riding at the time of the last election. Mr. Nesbitt attempted to reply, Mr. Cockshutt interrupted, whereat Mr. Nesbitt invited Mr. Cockshutt outside to settle the difference there might be between them. Mr. Cockshutt didn't accept the invitation, and the chairman called "order," in a loud voice. Thereupon Mr. Nesbitt admitted having written such letters, but denied that he had repudiated the Union Government.

Thus and thus did the members of the Union Government today carry on the war, the war being in their own camp. Incidentally may be mentioned that the question under discussion was the war vote.

Amending Insurance Act. The acting minister of finance introduced a bill in the House of Commons to amend the insurance act. The purpose of the bill is threefold. The insurance act now provides that British and foreign companies shall maintain deposits in the department of finance equal to total liabilities in Canada. Under the bill it will be necessary to maintain a deposit 25 per cent in excess of liabilities. The initial deposit is increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

There is a provision also affecting Canadian companies. At present Canadian companies must maintain assets at least 15 per cent in excess of total liabilities. The bill raises the percentage to 25 per cent.

Premier Borden moved that Monday in the future be given to the consideration of Government business. Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked that private members be given one more day, and the request was acceded to.

Discusses M. S. A. Today. The House decided to postpone the debate on the Government's amendments to the military service act until tomorrow. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that this was a very important matter, and that he had expected that day would be agreed upon by the House for the discussion. He suggested that it go over at least until tomorrow.

Sir Robert Borden said that the request of the leader of the Opposition was not an unreasonable one, and that the fact that only 24 hours' notice had been given by the Government. He expressed hope that the discussion would not be prolonged.

So far as was on this side of the House are concerned," replied Sir Wilfrid, "I do not think it will last longer than tomorrow."

Sam Repeats Criticism. In committee on the war appropriation of \$500,000,000, Sir Sam Hughes sharply criticized the fifth Canadian division overseas. He stated that in 1916 he recommended to the Imperial Government an amendment which the Canadian forces at the front would be composed of two corps, of three divisions each. In each corps division would be in the front line, one in support, and one in reserve. Thus there would always be one division at rest. The plan, Sir Sam said, met with the approval of Sir Douglas Haig, Sir Wm. Robertson and Lord George.

"The entire German army," Sir Sam added, "was afterwards remodelled in the identical system I had the honor to recommend." Sir Sam said that under his proposal the Canadian division would have been better off, and he was satisfied that the scheme here being introduced into effect "we should not have had some of the massacres that took place."

Sir Sam referred to the fifth division as the best shooting division in the world, except the old first division.

Sir Sam Hughes declared there was a need of revision in the way of appointing senior officers. They had not been made on merit or record, he said. Conducting the Government should exercise control in making these appointments, and society and other influences should be kept out.

Referring to his visit to England and France, Sir Robert Borden said, as far as he could ascertain at that time, was an apparently insufficient number of Canadians on the personnel of divisional staff and corps. He intimated, however,

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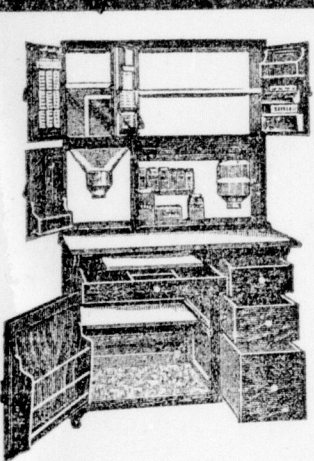
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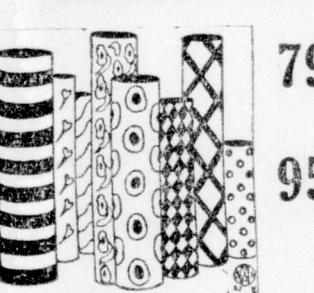
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For forty years now Burdock Blood Bitters has been making weak stomachs strong and curing severe cases of dyspepsia and indigestion that other remedies were powerless to reach.

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that since that time this had been altered.

Mr. Nickle raised the question of three division raised and their return. Mr. Nickle argued that full control should be exercised by the Canadian Government over Canadian troops, in so far as military exigencies permitted. In this way, he said, the Government would be able to control the troops, and the troops would be able to control the Government.

Arranged With Haig. Major-General Newburn replied that the furlough had been arranged with Sir Douglas Haig. He said that the furlough was granted to leave the front on condition that they returned. The idea was that the troops would be granted leave, and they would be expected to return. There were very few cases of men refusing to go back. In large number of cases men had returned before their leave was up.

There was a sharp discussion over the question of the authority on which the troops were to be sent. Mr. Nickle argued that the troops should be sent on the authority of the Canadian Government, and not on the authority of the British Government.

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Col. Mackie said he had been told by a friend Col. Martin had applied for leave. Col. Martin had not been on leave.

W. F. Cockshutt (Brantford) brought out that the payment of separation allowances and assigned pay, but the minister of militia in reply said that this department was improving rapidly. Many difficulties, he said, had been experienced, but during the last two months the work had been carried out more expeditiously and people were getting their checks on date.

A reference to a captain earning \$2,000 a year was a signal for a spirited discussion between Dr. Edwards of Frontenac and Sir Sam Hughes. Sir Sam Hughes said that the man might be an honorary captain.

Sam's "Honorary" Colonels. "If the ex-minister of militia had been in office at the time, this man would have been an honorary colonel," replied Dr. Edwards, who added that Sir Sam Hughes made colonels before breakfast and colonels after breakfast, providing they declared that Col. Martin had been ordered back without knowing anything about it till he reached London.

Sir Robert Borden—Where a man who had served in the army was called upon to become a colonel, he was not permitted to be a candidate for any other position. I am prepared to take full responsibility for Col. Martin or anyone else who was brought back to Canada for that purpose.

On Whose Orders? Mr. Pedlow rejoined that his point was: "Who had ordered Col. Martin home?" "I should be very much surprised," Sir Robert added, "to learn that any coercion was exercised on Col. Martin to enter the campaign."

"Colonel Martin was brought back to Canada," Mr. Pedlow insisted.

Major-General Newburn interposed that no order was issued by my department to bring back any man from the front.

Col. Currie remarked that it was the privilege of a parliamentary candidate to return.

"I am sorry," he went on, to laughter from the Government side of the House, "that the people of South Renfrew did not know enough to send a soldier from the trenches to Parliament."

Mr. Pedlow was continuing to review the circumstances of the South Renfrew nomination when he was interrupted by cries of "order" and "question."

Out of Order, Says Premier. "I beg to submit," declared the prime minister, "that this discussion is not relevant to a vote of \$500,000,000 to carry on the war."

As Mr. Pedlow was continuing, he was again interrupted with cries of "question."

NATIONALISTS

JOIN WITH SINN FEIN TO RESIST

Meeting Held in Mayo North of Bishops to Form Plans.

LONDON, April 18.—The leaders of the Nationalists in Ireland, including the Redmondites, who are now led by John Dillon, the Sinn Feiners, O'Brienites, Laborites and Clericals, are united in their determination to resist conscription "by the most effective means at our disposal," which is the wording of a resolution passed at a meeting of bishops at Mayo north yesterday.

For the first time in many years the Nationalists met the Dublin Sinn Feiners, and their older enemies, William O'Brien and Timothy Healy, while not very friendly to the Nationalists in recent years, were also present at the conference, which was held under the chairmanship of the lord mayor.

The Sinn Feiners were loudly cheered when they arrived at the Mansion House.

The outcome of the conference was that a committee composed of John Dillon, Edward Devallera, Timothy Healy and a Labor representative, with the lord mayor of Dublin, was appointed to attend the bishops' meeting at Mayo, where the resolution quoted was passed.

The meeting also directed that public meetings should be held in the parish next Sunday, at which a pledge should be administered in the words of the resolution. Masses of intercession will also be held in every Catholic church.

Situation Threatening. In the meantime, the authorities, although they do not anticipate that the conscription bill will be called until the home rule bill is on the statute books, are taking steps to deal with the situation, which, to say the least, is threatening.

Field Marshal Lord French, commander of the forces in the United Kingdom, arrived in Dublin yesterday with his staff. The Nationalists, or at least the majority of them, are understood to have decided to abstain from attendance in the House of Commons during

the crisis, thus adopting the attitude of the Sinn Feiners, who were elected to Parliament, but have never attended.

IN DUBLIN ALSO. London, April 18.—The conference of Irish Nationalists, Sinn Feiners, O'Brienites and Laborites, held in Dublin under the chairmanship of the lord mayor yesterday, unanimously adopted a resolution declaring their determination to resist conscription. The resolution was similar to the one adopted by the Irish bishops at Mayo north yesterday in the day. The conference then adjourned until Friday.

The authorities in Ireland are taking steps to deal with the situation, which, to say the least, is threatening.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA WILL SPEED REINFORCEMENTS

SYDNEY, Australia, April 18.—Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—The serious news from the front has stimulated recruiting. Eight hundred female volunteers, during a drill, unanimously declared their willingness to go to the trenches alongside their brothers, if the authorities would permit it.

NEW ZEALAND SPEEDS UP. WELLINGTON, N. Z., April 18.—Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—In the House of Representatives the prime minister, forward to England some weeks before referring to the appeal of Premier Lloyd George, said reinforcements were going forward to England some weeks before the normal dates. Monthly drafts would be increased, in accordance with the Imperial Government's wishes, and the supply of man power would have precedence over private business. Great Britain's example of increasing the military age had made a greater coming out of non-essential occupations.

CALL TO SOUTH AFRICA. CAPE TOWN, April 18.—Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—In the House of Assembly Premier Botha read a call from Gen. Smuts, reading: "The successes of the war are the result of the war. As a unit their reputation is the result of the war. The House of Representatives will be sent forward."

The Opposition leader said he hoped an appropriate reply on behalf of Parliament and the country would be sent to Gen. Smuts, expressing deep appreciation of the brigade's magnificent services. This was agreed to without dissent.

PTE. CAMPBELL WOUNDED. BRUSSELS, April 18.—Word has been received here that Pte. Harold Campbell has been wounded in the arm. Pte. Campbell, who