

Sir Sam Hughes, told him he was a good active little boy, but to keep his fingers out of the jam pot; gave General Bertram a fine dish of soft soap, but warned him that business was not his forte; praised the Canadian manufacturers for their energy and enterprise but suggested that smaller profits would show greater patriotism; and he kicked out Colonel Cantley, general manager of the Nova Scotia shell game, with such grace that this gentleman thinks he has been promoted."

Strong Charges Not Denied.

Throughout the time that Mr. Thomas was in Canada the Ottawa Citizen evinced knowledge of what had been going on, and many startling charges made editorially have never been answered. Some of these may be quoted:

"It is a sorry reflection on the patriotic spirit of Canada that lobbying touts should be seen buzzing around the doors of the Shell Committee."

"It is current talk here that the matter of awarding contracts, some of the firms to which they have been awarded and the way the orders have been executed are far from satisfactory and account for the fact that no additional commitments have come from the other side."

"But while the government is sitting apparently helpless or bewildered, as far as national service and organization for greater efficiency in the production of munitions are concerned, the talkative politicians still keep on talking."

\$5.15 for a Dollar's Worth of Work.

"Does any man say it (the Shell Committee) is not doing everything possible to keep the fat of profiteering on munitions as high as the British treasury will stand? . . . Does it not award contracts for machining shells, hundreds of thousands of them, for \$2.90 each when they could be machined profitably at \$1 each? . . . It is true the Shell Committee can no longer 'touch' the British treasury for \$5.15 for a dollar's worth of work."

The Canadian Lumberman and Woodworker a Toronto trade paper, makes definite charges against the Shell Committee in the matter of orders for shell boxes. It said "In the face of this situation (the capacity and needs of the woodworking industries) there are many box manufacturers in Canada who have not been able to secure orders for shell-boxes; while other companies not equipped for the work have been successful. For instance we are informed that such companies as the Deakin Construction Company of Montreal, the Cedar Rapids Construction Company of Montreal and others have secured contracts from the Shell Committee, while regular box manufacturers are unable to do so, or are finding it difficult to get orders direct from the Committee, while some of them are being offered sub-contracts by companies and middlemen who are not actually in the woodworking business. One of the best and largest box plants in Canada, we are informed, received contracts from the Shell Committee for 25,000 boxes, but manufactured 50,000 boxes for other manufacturers."

Stories similar to the above have been common for months past. In one case one of the largest plants in Canada had big shell contracts dangled before it for six or eight months, but never got a contract because the management refused to "come across" with the rake-off demanded. When Mr. Thomas took hold, this concern quickly got a large contract. Two similar plants in Eastern Canada also failed to land contracts offered to them because they refused to pay a "commission" of ten per cent to certain local Tory politicians. Back last May, the firm of Reid & Brown, ironworkers, of Toronto, were approached by a man who claimed to be able to get them "all the orders they wanted" on a commission of 10 per cent, and actually agreed to get a contract for \$120,000 if he was given \$12,000.



The fact that "Service" has been adopted by the Liberal Club Federation of Ontario as their motto has created more comment than any act of the organization since its inception.

The Toronto Star thought the adoption of such a motto so unique that a half-column editorial was devoted to the subject, congratulating the Federation on the choice of so inspiring a word. "That a political organization" says the Star, "should deliberately and in all seriousness adopt "Service" as its slogan shows that the increased responsibilities of the War is having its effect."

At the head of this column appears a reproduction of the trademark of the organization and this will appear on all Federation stationery.

During the past month two of the five district conferences of Liberal Clubs have been held. On October 29th, the Hamilton District clubs gathered at Hamilton and representatives were present from seven outside points. In the afternoon a full discussion of Federation matters took place and a district debating league was formed. The delegates decided that the clubs should continue the policy of only patriotic endeavors during the duration of the War. A banquet was held in the evening at which Mr. N. W. Rowell and Mr. Scott Davidson, M.P.P. for North Brant were the speakers.

At London, on November 3rd, another highly successful conference was held, following the same lines as at Hamilton, and the clubs in that district were largely represented. Hugh Guthrie and Major Tolmie were the speakers.

Three more conferences are being arranged, one of which will be held at Chesterville on November 19th. Leading speakers of Ontario and Quebec will be present and indications point to the most enthusiastic meeting of the series.