

submit for the decision of the Government-in-Council. According to Sir Sam Hughes at least three Ministers violated their constitutional obligations, the effect of which is to make constitutional government more or less of a farce. It will be obvious that Sir Sam's statement in this regard is a grave reflection on the Prime Minister's capacity as Captain of the Ship of State. Taking the statement at its face value, Sir Robert apparently was unable not only to control his colleagues, but they flaunted his authority by disregarding him. It is the manifest duty of Parliament to sift this matter to the bottom, in order that the extent of the improper, if not unlawful, administration may be fully realized, and so that the erring Ministers may be seized with a better idea of their responsibilities.

Intrigue, Quarrelling and Recrimination.

Running through the famous letters are charges by Sir Sam that in spite of the terrible crisis, the country was going through, the Cabinet, instead of being an harmonious whole, was an hot bed of intrigue, quarrelling and recrimination. This may account for the many stupid actions of the Government, otherwise unaccountable, for the vacillation, delay and inefficiency with which the country has been cursed, and which has been so exasperating.

The Retort Uncourteous.

The letters fairly bristle with denial and indeed the lie direct. Sir Robert Borden having written that "so far as I am aware you exercised the same control and direction over the Forces in Great Britain during the first year as subsequently." Sir Sam replied, "Sir Robert, no one knows better than you that this statement is incorrect."

What is the country to believe? Was Hughes held up and curtailed, as he says, in caring for and directing the Canadian Forces in England, through the intervention of Sir Geo. Perley acting for the Premier, and if so why? If the reason was that Borden had lost confidence in, or was afraid of Hughes, it is a lame one. The moment he lost confidence in his Minister he should have dismissed him instead of handicapping him by curtailing his powers. Therein Sir Robert showed his greatest weakness, a weakness almost intolerable in a Premier in these days of national crisis.

Sir Sam Must Prove His Case.

While we have not been at all friendly to Sir Sam Hughes, and have criticized him unsparingly, and while we still believe that his administration of the Militia Department left him open to severe condemnation, we know that he honestly thinks he has done good work for his country, but we say to him that his name and works are bound to go down into history under a cloud unless he follows up his grave charges by absolute proof. If he doest not submit that proof, we fear the verdict of history will be that he was quite irresponsible and fit only to be laughed at—not taken seriously. The man who penned such serious statements against the Government must be prepared in the interests of the country, if not in his own behalf, to prove them, or forever hold his peace.



LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION.

THE effect of the huge meetings at London have been exceedingly beneficial in awakening the different clubs to a realization that more activity is necessary.

Requests are coming in from all over the Province with regard to the formation of new clubs and the re-organization of some now existing, and during the next few months the clubs throughout the whole Province will be doing big work.

On Dec. 1st, Mr. Stuart Lyon, Editor of the Toronto Globe, addressed a big meeting at the opening of the Oshawa Liberal Club for the season. Mr. Lyon spoke on Public Ownership with special regard to the Railway situation, and in an effective way drove home the facts of the very serious situation that Canada is bound to face in the near future.

The Federation had a large representation at the Ottawa and Belleville Conferences and the results will be far-reaching. New clubs are being formed in many sections of the Eastern District.

There are, however, scores of places throughout Ontario where no club exists at the present time. It is not necessary to have club rooms. It is not necessary to have any expensive outlay. A hall or even in the more rural parts, a good big farm house would be quite sufficient to meet all the requirements.

These clubs are for the dissimulation of Liberal principles. Wherever a club is started speakers will be sent. It behooves our friends in every town, village and poll to organize a club at once and get every poll in the Province of Ontario absorbed in some one of these Liberal Clubs.

A Special Appeal to Ontario Liberals.

Whether a club is formed or not, if fifteen, twenty or more Liberals in any one locality will set aside one night for the discussion of a Liberal Club, and will communicate with Mr. B. H. McCreath, Secretary of the Liberal Club Federation, Canada Life Building, Toronto,—a representative from the Liberal Club Federation will be sent without expense to the prospective club, to discuss with the Liberals thus assembled the formation of a club.

Every Liberal in Ontario should act, and act at once. Let the New Year be a revival of Liberalism in the Dominion.

WOMEN'S LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION.

The Women's Liberal Club Federation of Ontario, has been rendering excellent service to the Patriotic and Red Cross work since the War started. The ladies in charge of this Federation work are anxious to see other clubs started throughout the Province. In fact, they will give their hearty co-operation and assistance to any Women's Liberal Clubs organized throughout the Dominion.