

ment by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. At the time he did not know of anything likely to be brought to the attention of the house. Undoubtedly the data on which the fuse charges were based came into the hands of the opposition at a later date.

Hughes Makes Denials

As for the minister's speech, which was listened to with the closest attention, it must be confessed that it consisted largely of general denials, and a writer for a newspaper of an opposite political stripe, but one not always unfriendly to the minister of militia as to others of his colleagues, was not far astray when he summarized the minister's remarks as follows: "Major General Sir Sam Hughes still sticks to Honorary Colonel Allison, to General Bertram, to Colonel Carnegie and the Shell Committee. He still sticks to his department, tho somewhat precariously and vicariously thru Premier Borden. He does not stick to the Canadian manufacturers, but the Kyte charges in their essential details will stick to him."

It was perhaps noticeable that Sir Sam, while he still stuck to Allison, did not appear to be so absolutely certain of him as on a former occasion when he described the still absent colonel as "the soul of honesty." He asserted that there had been no agreement for a division of the spoils as stated by Mr. Kyte, but added that in any case if one million dollars had been divided it only amounted to a ten per cent. commission on the fuse transaction, which was not unreasonable. Sir Sam gave as his chief reason why the fuse contracts had been let in the United States that Canadian manufacturers were afraid to undertake to make them. He said that there was many millions of money behind the men who took the contracts, and that they had large plants and employed a large number of men. He did not explain why such a large portion of the orders had been turned over to other companies. Sir Sam made light of the Kyte charges. He said that when he arrived on this side of the Atlantic he expected to read something serious. He closed by describing them as "piffle."

Laurier's Reply

Sir Wilfrid Laurier dealt briefly with the minister's remarks. He said that when Sir Sam left for England his own motion asking for an inquiry had not been disposed of. The government, however, had declined to grant an inquiry. When Mr. Kyte made his charges the government changed its mind. The situation in the eyes of the government became very grave, because it necessitated the return of the minister of militia. Sir Wilfrid expressed surprise that Sir Sam had not informed the house as to what his motives and intentions were when he made and signed the fuse contracts. He had discussed almost everything but these contracts. The only reference he had made to the contracts was to explain why he had given them to two foreign firms. The minister having chosen to go into other matters, he might have taken advantage of the opportunity to refer to a contract which had been brought forward prominently in the press in regard to the disposal of small arms ammunition. In closing Sir Wilfrid asked if Sir Sam was still minister of militia.

"The minister of militia is still a member of the government," declared the prime minister on rising. "He has asked me to undertake the administration of his department while he is occupied with the investigation which has been granted at the instance of honorable gentlemen on the other side of the house. I desire to say that the minister of militia and defence has assured me that he not only desires but intends that the investigation shall be full and complete, and, to that end, he is prepared from now henceforth to place his time at the disposal of the commission in order that very full investigation may be made. The minister of militia has not had before an opportunity to make allusion to certain matters with which it was sought to connect him. Many allegations were introduced with regard to enormous profits supposed to have been made by Col. Allison which were not connected, so far as I am aware, with the shell committee, or with the minister of militia or defence, or with the government, in any manner whatsoever.

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"The allegations of the member for Richmond were entirely new to me in respect of nearly all these matters, but they were introduced in such a manner as to connect the minister with the supposed enormous profits. The object of the honorable gentleman opposite at this very critical time in the history of the country and the Empire seems to be to swell up an enormous sum of supposed profits and by veiled insinuations to connect the minister of militia and defence with them. I am free to say that there was never a Royal Commission granted or recommended for the purpose of inquiry into the conduct of a minister that was passed upon such slender and slight foundations as the order in council and commission issued in connection with this case."

The conclusion to be drawn from the speeches made on the two sides of the house is that, while the Liberals have been disposed to exaggerate the charges against Sir Sam Hughes, the prime minister and the minister of militia have been quite as strongly disposed to minimize them. Such is the way of the politicians. The Meredith Duff commission, which has held its preliminary sitting and which will commence the taking of evidence on Wednesday next, will probably be able to get somewhere near the truth.

Trade Development Planned

The only other development of interest in parliament during the week was the announcement by Sir George Foster that he wants a larger vote in order to carry out a program of trade development which he has mapped out. The minister plans to establish a Bureau of Commercial Information, to call together a convention of business men in the capital to discuss trade conditions as they have been affected by the war, and to send an honorary commission of business men to Great Britain, France and Italy to secure information which will be of use in the future. He also plans to extend the commercial intelligence service abroad, more particularly in Russia.

Sir George's proposals received considerable praise, altho opposition members, including Hon. Wm. Pugsley, commented on the fact that no additional effort was to be made to enlarge the big natural market to the South for the benefit of Canadian producers. He suggested that Free Wheat would do more

for the Dominion than all the other plans of the minister combined. As usual the plan for Free Wheat fell on deaf ears.

ARBOR DAY

Monday, May 8, has been set as Arbor day in the province of Manitoba, and will be observed as a holiday. In the proclamation announcing the holiday it is urged that all municipal, religious and school corporations assist in carrying out the objects for the attainment of which this holiday has been instituted, namely, the planting of forest and other trees.

THE COMING OF THE BARONS

The following letter from the Toronto Globe, April 3, contains much which will be of interest to Westerners.

Editor, Globe:—I have taken The Globe ever since 1866. I took it then because under the management of George Brown it represented stalwart Liberal ideas. Of late years, since it has become the most conservative paper in Ontario, I have taken it partly for the sake of "Auld Lang Syne," and partly because it is the best newspaper in the province.

Imagine my surprise on seeing in The Globe of the 25th instant the article headed "Up a Lane and Near the Gas Works." In this article we see outlined the principles of pure Liberalism.

The idea that to the workers or producers belong the results of their labor. The million-dollar palace, built nominally to house a man who performs the functions of a rubber stamp, but really to furnish amusement to Toronto's sham aristocracy, will involve a further expenditure of many millions more, all of which will be earned by the class of men who are forced to live in two or even one roomed shanties in places far less desirable than the vicinity of the gas works.

The Globe and other so-called Liberal papers seem surprised that the masses of the people do not dance when the Liberal papers and orators pipe. Why should they? No matter which party is in power William Mackenzie and his like go on piling up their unearned millions. Railroads, such as the C.N.R. line from Toronto to Belleville, which do not serve any useful purpose whatever, are bonused by Tory and Liberal Governments alike. The persons who

plan them get enormous grants from the country, then bond them, often for more than they are worth when completed, and finally form themselves into construction companies, and come out with, say, twenty per cent. of the whole affair in their pockets. The next step is that the Government of the day, after satisfying itself that these promoters have really swiped a number of millions, recommends them to the King for Knighthood, of if they have pocketed a sufficiently large sum, for a Peerage.

This is only one of the many ways in which your Toronto aristocracy is built up. Some make immense fortunes in manipulating stocks; some thru protective tariffs, but none of them by honest labor. If this were all we might be willing to let it go at that, but the appetite grows by what it feeds on. Tens of thousands of farmers in the West are selling their wheat for much less than it is worth and paying unreasonably high prices for their supplies in order that these imitation aristocrats should have an income suited to their imagined station.

Not only that, but it becomes from their point of view necessary to build a palace worth more than a million dollars and pay a salary to a rubber-stamp man sufficient to keep it up, so that they can see their names in lists from A to Z filling up half a page in the Toronto papers after every reception at Government House.

The contents of some of the Socialist papers are sufficiently crude and ridiculous but if the I.M.M. and such organizations should succeed in tearing down the fabric of society it will be simply because the so-called Liberal party was essentially as bad as the Tories. I sincerely hope that the article in The Globe of the 25th instant may be the first of a series of real, up-to-date exposures of true Liberalism.

One of Your Oldest Subscribers.

Half the discussed hogs in this country were made so by the men who keep them. Foul pens and yards, impure feed and no chance to get out to clean ground will do it very often.

The hog needs good food and plenty of exercise. Keep him in his own strong quarters, away from the sows, and don't neglect him.