

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN  
PARLIAMENT.**

**Canvas Shoes for Soldiers.—**

February 7.—Sir Sam Hughes told Hon. Frank Oliver, that since August 4, 1914, the Government has bought 485,000 pairs of canvas shoes for Canadian Soldiers; that these shoes are used for rest shoes for use on shipboard, in billets, or in camp.

February 10.—Sir Sam Hughes told Hon. Frank Oliver, that the prices paid for canvas shoes were from \$1.50 to \$2.00, or an average price of \$1.70; that all units sent overseas were supplied with one pair per man; 116,000 sent overseas; 50,000 issued in Canada.

**Manufacture of Time Fuses.—**

February 7.—Sir Robert Borden told Hon. Chas. Marcil that the Imperial Munitions Board proposed to erect a factory for the loading of time fuses at Verdun (Montreal); that the factory will be operated by a Company specially formed for the purpose, the entire cost of which is assumed by the Board; that all expenditures for factory and equipment will be provided by the Board through the above Company, and that the cost for site and factory will probably be \$300,000 to \$325,000.

**Cost of Censorship.—**

February 9.—Sir Sam Hughes told Mr. J. H. Sinclair, M.P. (Guysborough) that during the year 1915, 65 censors and 49 decoders were employed by the Department of Militia at a cost of \$138,400.

**Overshoes for Soldiers.—**

February 10.—Sir Sam Hughes told Hon. Frank Oliver, that 124,000 pairs of overshoes had been purchased for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces; the prices paid were from \$1.67½ to \$1.96, or an average price of \$1.86½, and that about 118,000 pairs of these overshoes have been issued.

February 17.—Sir Sam Hughes told Hon. Mr. Oliver, that 18,000 pairs of overshoes have been issued to men in service overseas.

**Ballots for Overseas Soldiers.—**

February 10.—Hon. Arthur Meighen, (Solicitor-General) told Mr. A. K. Maclean (Halifax), that on the 20th of April, 1915, 70,000 ballots were sent by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to the Secretary of the High Commission for Canada in London, and that the ballots are still in his custody.

**Purchase of War Horses in Canada.—**

February 14.—Sir Robert Borden told Mr. J. J. Hughes, (Kings, P.E.I.), that both the British and French Governments have purchased horses in Canada for Army purposes since the War began, and that the French Government is buying horses in Canada at the present time; that the British Government has not been purchasing horses since about November, 1915; that he did not feel at liberty to give information as to the number of horses

purchased as it would be against the policy which the British Government has pursued in such matters; that the Canadian Government has not bought horses for use overseas since August, 1915, because an arrangement has been made during the past summer by which the British Government would purchase whatever horses might be necessary for both the British Forces and the Canadian Forces as well; that representations were made to the British Government with regard to the number of horses obtainable in Canada; and that in August last an arrangement was made between the British Government and the French Government, by which the French Government should be permitted to purchase horses in Canada. Sir Robert Borden also stated that the Canadian Government is not aware whether the British and French Governments are purchasing horses in the United States.

**British Columbia Indian Commission.—**

February 16.—Hon. W. J. Roche told Hon. Frank Oliver that the commission appointed in 1912 to investigate Indian Reserves in British Columbia is expected to complete its work at the end of the present fiscal year, and that the cost of the commission to date has been \$154,469.

**Halifax Ocean Terminals.—**

February 17.—The Minister of Railways and Canals told Mr. A. W. Chisholm (Inverness) that the expenditure on the Halifax Ocean Terminals to December 31st, 1915 was \$4,745,632, and that as detailed plans for these works have not been completed it is impossible yet to estimate the amount required to finish the work.

**T. R. Ferguson's Investigation.—**

February 17.—Hon. W. J. Roche told Mr. W. Chisholm (Antigonish) that for the investigation conducted by T. R. Ferguson into the affairs of the Department of the Interior prior to 1911, Mr. Ferguson was paid in salary \$27,800 in addition to expenses of the commission amounting to \$36,957.

**Members of Parliament in Military Service.—**

February 21.—Sir Sam Hughes told Mr. J. J. Hughes (King's, P.E.I.) that Members of Parliament on appointment as officers of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces are entitled to the pay and allowance of their rank, but that many of them do not draw pay and others contribute it to various patriotic and Red Cross funds, but that is according to their personal wishes.

**CANADA'S PUBLIC DEBT.**

Total Net Debt, September, 1911.....	\$323,938,768.74
“ “ “ September, 1915.....	484,841,633.73
“ “ “ October, 1915.....	492,528,492.09
“ “ “ November, 1915.....	501,668,167.71
“ “ “ December, 1915.....	515,144,019.37
“ “ “ January, 1916.....	527,488,999.94
“ “ “ February, 1916.....	537,530,696.21