

"protest, as I have frequently before entered it, at the interference
"and delays caused in all these things. It tends, not only to the injury
"and inefficiency of our soldiers, thus jeopardizing the success of
"British arms, but it must politically reflect seriously upon the Govern-
"ment.

Sub-Committee of Cabinet Given Contracts for Soldiers' Clothing to Manufacturers of Women's Underwear, Women's Blouses and Women's Corset-Makers.

"It is charged that the sub-committee have given contracts for
"soldiers' clothing to be made by jobbers, who sub-let them and never
"entered a stitch themselves. Women's linen underwear, women's
"blouse makers, women's corset makers and truss makers, have all
"been among these contractors.

"We believe, we are in a position in this department to truthfully
"say that there was never such a volume of business so successfully
"and economically transacted, or under such an efficient system of
"purchase and inspection, as had been developed by us up to the time
"when I went to Europe, and when the sub-committee took control."

"I feel very fortunate in having under me officers, both civil and
"military, in all the leading departments, in whom I can place absolute
"trust. They have done nobly, under very adverse surroundings,
"and I can conceive of no plan by which the work could have been
"more honestly, economically and effectively done, than was ours."

"I regret to have to submit these facts once more, but in justice
"both to myself, as well as to the splendid gallant soldiers we are
"endeavouring to equip for the front, I must ask your serious con-
"sideration of these matters."

"I have but one desire, the upbuilding of Canada, the Empire and
"humanity."

"Let me hope that you will regard this letter as written with due
"respect to myself, to my country, to you, as my leader, and in justice
"to our soldiers."

Faithfully,
(Sgd.) Sam Hughes."

Were there ever more serious charges made than those made
by the Ex-Minister against his colleagues? A few weeks delay in
the supplying of this equipment may have cost our soldiers
thousands of lives. Trucks which should have been ready in
December, 1914, were not ready on May 13th, 1915, due to the
fact that Ministers of the Crown could not determine the sort
of truck to purchase or the commission which should be paid to
agents. Necessary equipment for the soldiers had been held up
for months. In short if German agents had been in control they
could not have been more successful in holding up these supplies
than this sub-committee of the Council.

We ask if this whole thing is not too horrible to intelligently
conceive of, and we also ask if this is an example of the mis-
management that has been going on from the time Canadian
soldiers first started to enlist? Surely these accusations are
worthy of the most serious and thorough investigation.

It is such conditions as outlined in this letter that we
shall expose in these pages. It is a record that should be read