

With Compliments of
Sam Hughes

Pamph
HC
H

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

Lieut.-General Sir Sam Hughes

K.C.B., M.P.

TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

OF

Victoria and Haliburton Counties

AT

329363
24.7.36

LINDSAY, ONT., APRIL 28th, 1917

Reported by The Warder, Lindsay, Ontario.

11111

Faint header text, possibly containing a title or reference number.

Main body of faint text, appearing to be a list or series of entries.

Continuation of faint text, possibly a second list or section.

Bottom section of faint text, possibly a conclusion or footer.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

Permit me to express the deep appreciation felt on receiving the unanimous nomination to be your candidate once more for this grand riding of Victoria and Hallburton.

For twenty-seven continuous sessions I have been honored in serving you in Parliament; my ideals of politics thus evidently commending themselves to you. My policy has been modelled on that of the late Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, and based on the foundation principles of responsible government.

While adhering in non-essentials to party, which is made up of men, and based on principles, I have ever tried to stand by principles—for these are eternal, while men are transient, mere creatures of the hour. Where essentials are involved I have on several occasions severed my allegiance to party.

One of these instances was the "all Canadian" railway to the Yukon; another was the attempted coercion of Manitoba in 1895. The all Canadian route to the Yukon must soon be constructed; while creed meddling as creed, in constitutional problems should be discouraged.

In 1911 the Conservative party, having won the elections, I became Minister of Militia and Defence, and my aims, carried out with more or less success, were:—

To get the best service for money voted.

To improve the training of the militia.

To secure larger training areas in each military district.

To establish a Cadet system.

To construct drill halls wherever necessary.

To train, and train seriously, officers. Hence the sending of large

numbers in 1912 and 1913 to United States, Britain, France, Switzerland, Germany, etc., to witness manoeuvres.

It was my privilege on every occasion to oppose "Peace at any price" movements; for then I felt certain, what is now known, that German gold was behind that movement as well as many other movements.

By 1914 I had a trained militia force of nearly 70,000 men; a cadet force of 60,000; besides trained teachers, 15,000; and ex-militiamen in tens of thousands.

When the call came to arms, I was ready as far as was humanly possible under the circumstances.

War was declared August 4, 1914.

Canada's offer of troops was accepted late on August 7th.

On August 9th Valcartier Camp was expropriated and work was begun.

The details of this great camp are now familiar to all; so I shall not enlarge on them here further than to say that within ten days wool was made into cloth, cloth into uniform, and uniform was on the backs of our soldiers.

Rifle ranges three and a half miles long were constructed and thirty-three thousand gallant lads were practising thereon.

Miles of water mains and drainage, electric lights and roads, and railway tracks, military stores and other buildings, bridges, etc., etc., were completed.

By September 21st the force of 33,000 men was marching to embark on thirty-two ocean liners; and on October 2nd, the flotilla, convoyed by a British fleet, sailed from Gaspe Basin.

Soon thereafter all arrived safely

at Plymouth, and thence proceeded to Salisbury Plain, and later to the front, where they have covered themselves with undying glory.

THE MUCH ABUSED ROSS RIFLE.

Intrigue was brought about by German gold to bring the Ross rifle into disrepute and destroy its reputation. The Germans knew the high standing of this rifle and how unerring it was in the hands of an expert. Their own rifle is the same length as the Ross rifle, only deficient in certain points. It was the deadly effects that the German officers knew it would produce that led them to hand out their gold to those who could be influenced to condemn it. Was it the Ross rifle that was to blame at St. Julien? No! It was the inferior brands of ammunition that were sent out that were at fault. Three brands of ammunition were taken from our men and the British four days before the battle of St. Julien and discarded. Yet this condemned ammunition was given them during the fight by British officers in our service. Was it German gold that did it? Bad ammunition and not the Ross rifle was to blame at that eventful battle. The British rifles jammed also when this brand of ammunition was used. Today the Ross rifle has no equal, and with the proper ammunition can do more and better shooting than any other rifle manufactured. Were it not for the work done by the Ross rifles, how could 12,000 Canadians hold an army of 120,000 Germans at bay, when the latter were equipped with hundreds of machine guns, field guns, aeroplanes and modern heavy artillery?

HARMONY PREVAILED.

When, year by year, from 1911 to 1914, I was quietly, but surely and firmly, getting the Canadians prepared for the year, which anyone who carefully studied conditions could

foresee, the Conservative members stood firmly and loyally, and, although the increase was large, they trusted my judgment. I have always appreciated and never betrayed this trust and confidence.

It appears there was recently considerable speculation in some quarters, regarding the attitude I would take in my remarks on the Address. My comrades of the Conservative party, however, again paid me the highest of compliments in implicitly trusting me. Although I had not informed the members in the session 1914-15, or in that of 1915-16, of the causes of the trouble, and thus not having given them an opportunity of taking action to compel proper consideration on the part of some of my colleagues, yet with scarcely an exception the members realized that nothing would be said by me to injure a brother member in his constituency, or to harm the party as such in the country. They were pleased to find their confidence justified.

Since then, however, several members and others have learned a few of the facts, and they regret that I did not inform them at the time, so that prompt and decisive action in the premises could have been taken by the party.

FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS.

Previous to the war the finances of Canada had fallen from the buoyant conditions of 1911-12-13 to the verge of extreme depression. Factories were closed; on every hand "Hard Times" stared industries and people in the face; and "want of confidence" held the trade and commerce of the country firmly in its grasp. I then notified the Finance Minister that his proper functions were to develop correct means of raising the revenue; to keep the finances buoyant, and the trade of the country prosperous.

When the war broke out conditions became even worse.

INTERFERENCE IN BRITAIN.

The interferences in Britain by Sir George Perley, who took the position, notwithstanding Canada paid all the bills, that our Canadian troops on leaving our shores practically became "British Regulars," and should not be directly under the control of Canada, but under the British; that British society influences should dominate our hospitals, and Sir George Perley's views rule. His interferences also were disintegrating on the troops.

ORGANIZING AN ARMY.

For the First Division, the contracting, and the entire organization were unique. Almost every known rule of warfare was departed from, and in every case my judgment proved correct. Not only have the British and French Governments followed my plan of committees, made up of good military men, combined with excellent business men from civil life, but Russia has followed suit, and the United States had already, in January, 1917, begun to organize along similar lines. The same holds good in every line of the service.

The purchasing for the First Division, with the exception of trucks and bicycles, is regarded as the most successful in history. By arrangement with the Prime Minister—time being important—there were few Orders-in-Council of any kind until the work was accomplished, although careful checks were regularly made.

The next stage in the contracting was adopted during my absence in England in 1914. A sub-committee of the Privy Council, of which the Acting Minister of Militia was a member, would receive the reports from the Quartermaster-General and Director of Contracts, and make the recommendations to the Privy Council.

A PROPER SYSTEM.

On my return I protested against this procedure, and the following

was adopted:—The Minister of Militia would receive the reports from the Quartermaster-General and Director of Contracts, and make recommendations to the Privy Council, who, I understand, referred them for consideration to a sub-committee of Council. Both systems caused serious delays, inconvenience and loss, and were abandoned.

The next system was the War Purchasing Commission, to whom the Militia Department refers all recommendations.

My own proposition, at the beginning of the war, and always, was to have a committee of capable business men assist the Director of Contracts, and I am still of opinion this would have been by all odds the best system. The sub-committee principles were absurd, while the War Purchasing Commission is, in some regards, objectionable and weak.

It is only fair to state, however, that early in the war hundreds of business firms of all kinds sought contracts, great and small, begging for work and frankly assigning the reason that they must go into bankruptcy if they could not get something to do.

With the loosening up and distribution of money, and the restoration of financial confidence in the country, caused by the work of the old Shell Committee, and the manufacture of steel in Canada, the importunities gradually lessened, and finally disappeared; but for some months previous the distress amongst business people was so great that contractors were most persistent in begging and praying for work of any description; and discontent, naturally, arose with a few.

EARL KITCHENER'S REQUEST.

At the beginning of the war, Lord Kitchener asked me to undertake the purchase of clothing, equipment, etc., for the British and French Governments. With the great amount of work on hand, it was impossible for

me to personally undertake these duties, so I recommended a Committee, who would be under the supervision of the Director of Contracts, to purchase in the United States and Canada. The commodities needed were then mostly obtainable only in the former country.

I informed the Prime Minister of my action, and also Lord Kitchener, who was agreeable.

MORE INTERFERENCE.

On my return the following week to Ottawa from Valcartier, I learned that a sub-committee of the Privy Council had been formed instead, and entrusted with the work.

This sub-committee was subsequently abandoned and the work entrusted direct to British agencies.

When I had informed the proposed committee of their appointment and of my plans, I suggested that they should immediately secure options on all commodities known to be wanted. Prices were then normal. At once options were secured on large numbers of horses, on woollen goods, on certain powder commodities, etc. It was therefore rather a rude shock to my proposed committee to find that authority had been given to a sub-committee as stated; but there was nothing to be done but frankly inform the parties from whom the options had been received of the change in plan, and to cancel the options.

A SAVING OF MILLIONS.

Early in the war all the contracts made by the British Government agents in the United States were treated by the American contractors as contraband, and the contractors would not undertake to ship materials to any warring nation. How to get the goods delivered was a conundrum. It was solved by having them shipped to a point in the United States, and trans-shipped across the St. Lawrence by water via

Canada, with the full authority and knowledge of the Department of Customs at Ottawa, and by order of Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs, and thence onward to Britain.

This trans-shipment by water was subsequently found to be unnecessary, as it was arranged with the American railway systems to have the goods re-shipped via Canada by train, and onwards to Britain. Later arrangements were made to ship direct from the Port of New York. All this action never cost Canada or Great Britain one dollar. Further, had the options on goods in the earlier part of the war been accepted at the time I had recommended the Committee, the saving to the British Government in the first six months of the war alone, would have been upwards of one hundred million of dollars.

It must be remembered that once this Committee were passed over, they were as free as any men in Canada or the United States to deal on their own account with Britain, France, Canada, or any other land. I frankly told them so, and from that hour, neither directly nor indirectly, were they in any transaction under any obligation to me, nor was I to them.

Let us now turn to another aspect. At the outbreak of the war, as I have stated, Canada had practically been brought to the verge of bankruptcy, and my fear then was that we would not be able to maintain more than one division in the firing line.

I had on two previous occasions pointedly drawn the Finance Minister's attention to the fact that his function was to produce a revenue, keep the business of the country buoyant, and thus, everything being prosperous, money would be easily obtainable. In this, however, success did not attend his efforts; or, rather, my suggestions were not accepted by that gentleman.

THE SHELL COMMITTEE.

When Lord Kitchener cabled me to get two hundred thousand shrapnel shells made in the United States, I concluded that our splendid industrial captains could manufacture them in Canada. My conclusion resulted in the formation of the old Shell Committee—a fine, honourable, capable and patriotic body. The Committee was composed of:

General Sir Alexander Bertram.

Colonel Thomas Cantley.

Colonel David Carnegie.

Colonel Watt, and certain officers of the Militia Department.

In the preliminary stages of the work of the Shell Committee the question of steel arose, and we were officially informed that Canada's basic steel would not do, but that acid steel must be imported. I at once demanded the reason why. The reply was that Britain, in fact all lands, used acid steel, because basic steel was not suitable. I replied, "That is no answer. What I want to know is, why it will not do? Why is it not suitable?" The reason then assigned was something about phosphorus and sulphur in our ore. Then I suggested, "We will adapt our ore to the steel."

Colonel Cantley undertook the experiment with Canadian basic steel, and was finally triumphant. He so prepared the steel that it not only stood the Woolwich test and was accepted, but basic steel is used by all lands in the manufacture of shells to-day.

DEVELOPING CANADA'S RESOURCES.

It simply required, first, driving power to override the custom of generations in using acid steel; and, second, the skill, capability and perseverance of a man like Colonel Cantley to continue experimenting, at a cost of many thousands of dollars, to secure the correct process of manufacturing. The result has been

that Canadian workmen and Canadian mills have manufactured many billions of pounds of steel in Canada, to the benefit of Canadian bankers, merchants, workmen and their families.

The same line of policy as was pursued regarding steel was followed with zinc and copper. Backed up by the Shell Committee, I kept pounding away for months until, finally, for the first time in history, Canadian zinc and Canadian copper were refined in Canada.

The same holds good with the fish trade, which is, as yet, merely in its infancy. I had to practically smash aside scores of difficulties before I got the fish industry recognized, even with the Canadian troops. Now it has spread to the British troops, and I had plans laid for both France and Italy. The fish industry is money found. There is no reason why the Canadian fish exports should not, in another year or two, exceed one hundred million of dollars annually, and in ten years it might readily reach three hundred million of dollars. There need be no "meatless days" in Canada, for fish meat may readily be had.

Let us review. The Shell Committee was formed some considerable time and several millions of dollars of contracts let, before any very special attention was drawn to it. In those days people had to be cajoled, coaxed, humoured and assisted into the taking up of the manufacture of munitions, while banks would not readily loosen up. The Shell Committee then had few attractions for financial manipulators.

The next step witnessed that phase of human character which leads one not to take as conclusive immature views. Scores of people whom I had assured of success, if they entered the shell business at the beginning, and who would not touch it, on seeing others succeed in the industry, clamoured for contracts.

CANADA'S PROSPERITY.

General Bertram was by that time overrun by demands from Canadians for making shells. But orders came to him very spasmodically from Britain. The General could only give to Canadian industries the orders he obtained from the War Office; but he did his best, and by the end of 1915 had secured contracts for three hundred and fifty millions of dollars worth. The consequence was that times in Canada were good; banks were prosperous and ready to advance money for almost any cause; people had confidence; dinner pails were no longer empty; and, as a result of my refusal to place the order for two hundred thousand shrapnel shells in the United States, and what it led up to, Canada could and can raise her own domestic loans. These shells have done duty from St. Julien to the Somme, and from Vimy Ridge to Cambrai and St. Quentin.

Early in the war the proposal was made that I, as Minister of Militia, should pursue the policy of the South African War, and have all the money for these orders placed to my personal credit and paid out on my personal cheque. This I point blank refused to allow, but arranged that the credit should pass to the Shell Committee and be cashed by General Bertram. I had appointed an auditor, and from the outset took the precaution to have the accounts audited by the bank officials also.

THE NEW "NATIONAL" PARTY.

But the business was growing enormously, and the handling of three hundred and fifty millions would greatly brace up friendly institutions. Let us mark the outcome. The Shell Committee gave place to the Imperial Munitions Board. Mr. J. W. Flavelle has long been the President of the National Trust Company. The Finance Minister was for years the General Manager of that Company. Mr. Flavelle, certainly a capable financier,

became head of the new Imperial Munitions Board.

In March, 1916, attacks were renewed upon the old Shell Committee: These attacks, or conspiracies, upon the Shell Committee and myself are classed under a series of five heads:

(1) The attack in 1915 on General Bertram and his contracts. This consisted chiefly in agitations, inflaming nervous public opinion and paving the way for the second stage of the great conspiracy.

(2) The securing control of the finances of the new Imperial Munitions Board. (Incidentally it may be noted that the chief friends of that group, known as the "National" Party, were very active for some time in adverse criticism of General Bertram and all connected with the Shell Committee).

MALICE AND JEALOUSY.

(3) Political ambition seems next to have been aroused; and, while I was bending my best energies looking after our soldiers and the successful prosecution of the war, hoping for the end thereof that I might retire to private life, agitations towards my downfall were planned.

Data were obtained from the Imperial Munitions Board and every move possible was made to create a preliminary agitation against me, the old Shell Committee and all associated therewith; but the Meredith-Duff Commission found nothing but absolutely clean work.

(4) From the very outbreak of the war Sir George Perley has always been active, seeking to create an unhealthy atmosphere against me in England. Both he and the Finance Minister seemed to have had certain newspaper influence. The Canadian Associated Press, overseas, in England, paid by the money of Canada, is associated indirectly. Every insinuation or adverse criticism was sent to Canada. Perley was therefore a fit agent to be appointed the new Minister Overseas. A journal

in Toronto, upon which the Finance Minister once served, and which is generally regarded as his Toronto organ, viciously attacked me, while two Montreal papers, owned by a brother of that gentleman, were insistent in their adverse criticism.

Another plan or scheme seems to have been the sweetening of the newspapers of Canada by departing from the first principles of the National policy to secure printing paper at fixed price, and incidentally benefit to a considerable extent the Yankee newspapers. The rich advertisements by brokers, by the Government, paid for by the poor people of Canada in connection with loans, also tended to mollify criticism of the press, and secure neutral, if not favourable consideration and comment.

It is also asserted that an attempt to win the bankers, and brokers was made. To the bankers, undoubtedly, belongs the great credit for any success attending the issue of Canada's loans.

Upwards of one billion dollars at interest lay in Canadian Savings Banks drawing two and a half to three per cent.

Many millions more were sewn up in stockings, etc. The Bankers Association, a great organization, did the work. Upwards of a billion dollars, are, however, yet available at low rates of interest. Why, therefore, pay high rates?

Soon after the advent of the Imperial Munitions Board, the attacks of 1915 began to reappear against the old Shell Committee. Many of these came from the "National" party group and their friends.

The next move was the furnishing to the Liberal Party the material to bring about the attack which resulted in the Commission of Enquiry under Justices Meredith and Duff. The public were also prepared in advance by every class of insinuation and suggestion for a big scandal, which never materialized.

A CLEAN RECORD.

Although the Commission sat for many weeks, costing a tremendous sum of money, not one solitary improper act on the part of any one concerned was found.

Previous to my sailing for Europe last spring, 1916, I had heard rumours that there was going to be an attack made on the Militia Department. After consulting the Premier, and with his knowledge, I spoke to the leaders of the Liberal party; but one and all assured me that they knew nothing about any such attack. The rumours had included reports that some subordinate of the Liberal party had been making boasts.

A WARNING.

In New York the day I sailed, I was informed by a leading American financial magnate that I should not sail; that an attempt was about to be made to destroy me, and I was urged to cancel my trip. Thinking reference was had to torpedoes, I laughingly passed it off. The gentleman assured me, however, it was not torpedoes at sea, but "ENVENOMED POISON ON THE PART OF SOME OF YOUR OWN COLLEAGUES IN THE CABINET WHO SEEK TO GET RID OF THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT WHO REALIZE THAT YOU ARE BEHIND HIM SOLID, AND IN ORDER TO GET RID OF HIM THEY MUST FIRST GET RID OF YOU."

I immediately wrote from New York to the Prime Minister, giving him a brief summary, and told him that in case anything turned up he was to cable me promptly, and I would return instantly. I have never yet been able to ascertain how the New York financial gentleman became possessed of the information.

(5) The next step appears after the failure of the judicial examination. The mind of the Finance Minister became troubled lest things must be wrong with finances in England.

connection with the Canadian soldiers, and a Canadian Overseas Minister must be appointed. He said in the House his order to the Prime Minister to the effect. A willing coadjutor, in the person of Sir George Perley, was found. He had been out in Canada all last summer and had returned in order to take up his new duties. It never occurred to these gentlemen that if there was anything wrong financially a Finance Minister in England was much more necessary than a new Minister of Militia, but after an examination by himself and his Auditor-General of everything in England, he was forced to admit that he found the accounts and everything else connected therewith in splendid shape.

PROPER MANAGEMENT OVERSEAS.

Let me point out that the finances of the Canadian troops in England had been rotten; that more than a year and a half previously I had smashed down barriers, forced Canadian control, appointed reliable and capable officers, and I knew things were all right.

I had known that in 1915 our convalescent system in England was wrong. I laid out a plan, ordered it enforced at all costs, and my officers' loyalty carried it out. This system has been the model for every warring nation, enemy or friend, and in one year it saved Canada upwards of six millions of dollars.

But I also knew that the business end of the medical service was badly in need of reorganization. This I proceeded to tackle in 1916. It has been greatly improved, but stands in need of much greater improvement. The pet "V.A.D." "Matrimonial Bureau" system, dear to the heart of Colonials of the Sir George Perley brand, was marked for reformation.

I also had other plans for reorganizing the forces, not one of which has been materially interfered with, except to the injury of the service

and at great cost to Canada.

RECRUITING HELD UP.

With the business management of the Finance Department I will deal on another occasion; but the "high finance"; the "sweetening of the press of Canada"; the attempts to influence the bankers and brokers of Canada,—all these and more, at the cost of the poor people of this land, who have been taxed millions of dollars thereby, are gradually becoming understood by the general public.

More than one year ago an agitation was begun on the question of labour. We were recruiting "too many regiments"; we were "taking too many men away from work"; "munitions manufacturers and others would be at a standstill"; "farmers could not put in their crops"; and "Canada has already done her full duty," were daily recited. They, unfortunately, had an effect upon the Prime Minister. The result was that I was asked in March, 1916, not to press recruiting, and recruiting today is, and has been dead in Canada for fighting purposes. "Safety First," or the useful and well paid, but not dangerous jobs, are readily filled; but for the gallant boys in the trenches there is little or no backing.

In October last I notified the Prime Minister of my belief that we must resort to compulsory service. I said the same, speaking for myself only, in Toronto, at large meetings under the auspices of the Empire Club, of the Conservative Association, and at the Metropolitan Church, and everywhere my proposition met with approval. I addressed meetings in Belleville and many other places, and the same sentiments received tremendous endorsement. I have suggested again and again the application of the Militia Act.

OUR DUTY—ACTION.

One thing stands forth prominently; for twelve months Can-

ada has done very little in the way of recruiting. There is a world-wide war on; now is the time our boys at the front need assistance; and I demand that NOW they shall receive assistance. Our cause must triumph, and NOW is the time for action. Liberty is endangered—we must bend every energy in prompt action to save that priceless gem.

Upwards of nine months have been lost from a military viewpoint by dependence on the National Service Commission; about four more months will be frittered away before people rise against the present C. D. F. plan of recruiting. Possibly by that time some other scheme to kill time and prevent recruiting will be devised; but the war is not yet won, although our gallant boys, as well as all the Allies, are doing noble work.

What I want to impress upon you however, is that we are in the war and the war is far from being finished. It has cost about one million men along the Somme this year. Our men at the front are overworked, and have no rest; while we have hundreds of thousands of young men in Canada who should be doing their duty. On a later occasion my views will be made known on this aspect of the case.

I am merely seeking to do my duty to each brother Member of Parliament and the party and country, generally, in submitting these facts.

But ACTION is an important word and a more important factor.

"THE SOLDIERS' RETURN."

The returned soldier must have a chance. The old song must no more be sung:—

"When war's proclaimed and danger's nigh,
'God and the soldier' is the cry.
When wars are over and wrongs are righted,
God is forgotten and the soldier slighted."

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Such must not, shall not occur after this war. Nor must he be treated as a pet. All he asks is a fair field and no favor. He will get both. Positions must hunt for the soldier, and not vice versa.

We must consider the following points:—

There is fictitious prosperity at present.

Canada must be developed.

Let us unite with Newfoundland.

Build railways, improve old ones.

Construct wagon roads.

Sell lands, reserving some for homesteads.

Impose settlement and development conditions.

Look after coal and fuel supply.

Develop fisheries.

Develop ores.

Look after drainage.

Control internal combustion fuel for road revenue.

Encourage experimental development works at Ottawa.

Develop shipbuilding, trawlers, etc.

Soldiers must vote, or have right to do so.

Man loses no right of citizenship on becoming a soldier.

CONCLUSION.

For the future, as in the past, I have but one desire, the prosecution of the war to a successful issue; the overthrow of autocracy, and the establishment of democracy on a secure foundation. I have longed for the conclusion of the war. I want further to affirm that party means principles; men are mere incidents.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.

In 1896 the Conservative party was wrecked because its quondam leaders departed from the principles of the Conservative party. I stand by the principles of the Conservative party, and when temporary leaders depart from those principles, rest assured I shall stand by the principles of the party.

What of the future ?

The Conservative party does not want Commissions, whose functions are DELAY and INACTION.

Nor the surrender to any plausible and cunningly prepared assault on the principles of the National Policy of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Nor professions of sympathy with the soldiers at the front, while failing to back them up with well trained reinforcements.

Nor Lilliputian amateur political leaders in the land of Brobdignag. They want men of grasp, of large calibre, of stout heart, of prompt action; men with the will and power to do, and the soul to dare for Liberty and Right.

The principles of the great Liberal-Conservative party among much else, involve :

Prompt and wise conclusions, and as prompt action.

The maintenance of the policy of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The recognition of the principle :—
"A British Freeman I was born; a British Freeman I will die."

Appreciation of our soldiers at the front, by supporting them with men from Canada.

Realizing this is a fight to a finish between autocracy and tyranny of the Dark Ages, and the free democracies of the world of the 20th century.

The exclusion of personal ambition, intrigue, hypocrisy, misrepresentation.

The great aims : "FINISH THE WAR"; "BACK UP OUR GALLANT LADS IN THE TRENCHES WITH OTHER CANADIAN LADS"; "LAY THE FOUNDATION DEEP AND STRONG OF PERSONAL HUMAN LIBERTY FOREVER."

I stand now as always, by the grand old Conservative party and its principles. For twenty-seven sessions I have fought and won or fought and fallen with the splendid men of that cause. We will still

serve shoulder to shoulder in the great fight now regarded so seriously by all good citizens. From the Atlantic to Pacific one call is clear :—
"Let Canada do her full duty in the war." "Let our boys at the front receive proper support." "Let us apply the Militia Act throughout Canada, in each and every Province alike." "Let us stand by the rule, "EQUAL LAWS AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR NONE." "Let us call out and train 150,000 to 200,000 more men and have half of them at the front by Autumn. IT CAN, IT SHOULD BE DONE. WILL IT BE DONE?"

WHAT OF OUR OLD TIME LIBERAL FRIENDS ?

Our friends of the great Liberal party have fought side by side with Liberal-Conservatives in this great struggle. The lads have fallen together; they rest together heroes in the greatest struggle for which mankind has ever given sacrifice; the golden lilies of France, the crimson poppies of Belgium, and the red and white roses of England bloom over their resting places together; none knew the other as aught but CANADIAN, fellow heroes in fighting for freedom.

Why then should those not at the front perpetuate the petty bickerings and childish squabbles of party politics? Where men hold the same political views, why should the old party labels be worn, at least during the war? The great Liberal-Conservative principles embody winning the war by doing our best. I know that this audience endorses these views.

This war has made people serious. Men are more steadfast, women more holy, for the great sacrifices made. Let us then join hands in the one great cause and triumph.

Two hundred thousand additional Canadians in arms would tend to terminate the war.

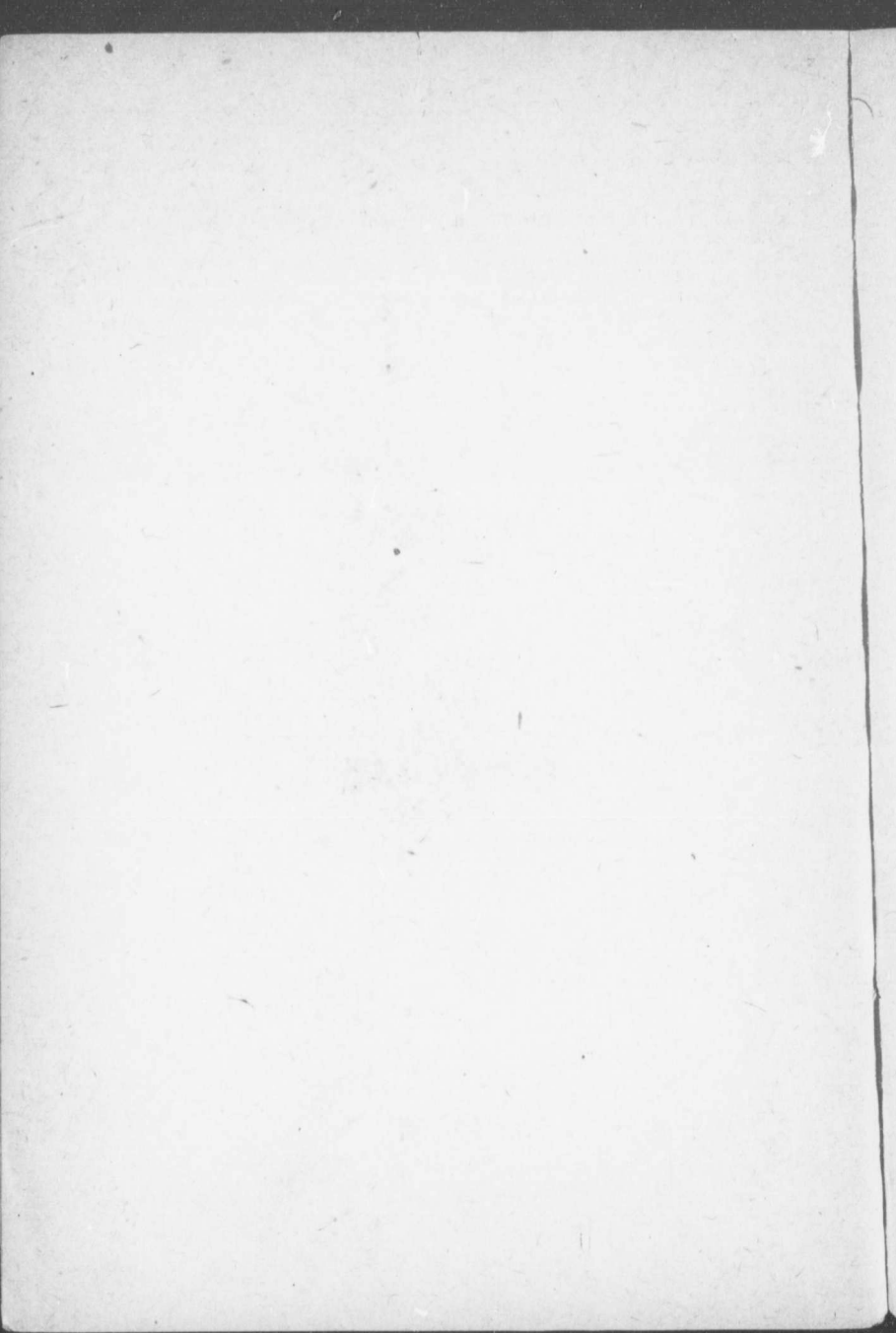
How can we ever look the returning soldiers squarely in the face if our duty in supporting them at the front is undone?

Already this riding of Victoria and Haliburton, from a population of about forty thousand, has sent upwards of four thousand. The Lindsay Collegiate Institute alone has about three hundred ex-cadets on duty at the front. Many of this

number have already fallen gloriously; but more arise, inspired by the heroic examples, to take their places. To the mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, ay, and sweethearts of these brave fellows, we offer heartfelt sympathy and appreciation.

May the war soon terminate, is our fervent wish. But until it terminates there must be no inaction.





WARDER, BRYN

With Compliments of
Sam Hughes

Tamph
HC
H

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

Lieut.-General Sir Sam Hughes
K.C.B., M.P.

TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

OF

Victoria and Haliburton Counties

AT

LINDSAY, ONT., APRIL 28th, 1917

329363
24.7.36

Reported by The Warrier, Lindsay, Ontario.

1881

4

Received of the Treasurer of the State of New York
the sum of \$1000.00

for the purchase of land for the State of New York
in the County of Albany

on the 1st day of January 1881

for the purchase of land for the State of New York
in the County of Albany

for the purchase of land for the State of New York
in the County of Albany

for the purchase of land for the State of New York
in the County of Albany

for the purchase of land for the State of New York
in the County of Albany

for the purchase of land for the State of New York
in the County of Albany

Mr. President and Gentlemen :

Permit me to express the deep appreciation felt on receiving the unanimous nomination to be your candidate once more for this grand riding of Victoria and Halliburton.

For twenty-seven continuous sessions I have been honored in serving you in Parliament; my ideals of politics thus evidently commending themselves to you. My policy has been modelled on that of the late Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, and based on the foundation principles of responsible government.

While adhering in non-essentials to party, which is made up of men, and based on principles, I have ever tried to stand by principles—for these are eternal, while men are transient, mere creatures of the hour. Where essentials are involved I have on several occasions severed my allegiance to party.

One of these instances was the "all Canadian" railway to the Yukon; another was the attempted coercion of Manitoba in 1895. The all Canadian route to the Yukon must soon be constructed; while creed meddling as creed, in constitutional problems should be discouraged.

In 1911 the Conservative party, having won the elections, I became Minister of Militia and Defence, and my aims, carried out with more or less success, were:—

To get the best service for money voted.

To improve the training of the militia.

To secure larger training areas in each military district.

To establish a Cadet system.

To construct drill halls wherever necessary.

To train, and train seriously, officers. Hence the sending of large

numbers in 1912 and 1913 to United States, Britain, France, Switzerland, Germany, etc., to witness manoeuvres.

It was my privilege on every occasion to oppose "Peace at any price" movements; for then I felt certain, what is now known, that German gold was behind that movement as well as many other movements.

By 1914 I had a trained militia force of nearly 70,000 men; a cadet force of 60,000; besides trained teachers, 15,000; and ex-militiamen in tens of thousands.

When the call came to arms, I was ready as far as was humanly possible under the circumstances.

War was declared August 4, 1914.

Canada's offer of troops was accepted late on August 7th.

On August 9th Valcartier Camp was expropriated and work was begun.

The details of this great camp are now familiar to all; so I shall not enlarge on them here further than to say that within ten days wool was made into cloth, cloth into uniform, and uniform was on the backs of our soldiers.

Rifle ranges three and a half miles long were constructed and thirty-three thousand gallant lads were practising thereon.

Miles of water mains and drainage, electric lights and roads, and railway tracks, military stores and other buildings, bridges, etc., etc., were completed.

By September 21st the force of 88,000 men was marching to embark on thirty-two ocean liners; and on October 2nd, the flotilla, convoyed by a British fleet, sailed from Gaspe Basin.

Soon thereafter all arrived safely

at Plymouth, and thence proceeded to Salisbury Plain, and later to the front, where they have covered themselves with undying glory.

THE MUCH ABUSED ROSS RIFLE.

Intrigue was brought about by German gold to bring the Ross rifle into disrepute and destroy its reputation. The Germans knew the high standing of this rifle and how unerring it was in the hands of an expert. Their own rifle is the same length as the Ross rifle, only deficient in certain points. It was the deadly effects that the German officers knew it would produce that led them to hand out their gold to those who could be influenced to condemn it. Was it the Ross rifle that was to blame at St. Julien? No! It was the inferior brands of ammunition that were sent out that were at fault. Three brands of ammunition were taken from our men and the British four days before the battle of St. Julien and discarded. Yet this condemned ammunition was given them during the fight by British officers in our service. Was it German gold did it? Bad ammunition and not the Ross rifle was to blame at that eventful battle. The British rifles jammed also when this brand of ammunition was used. Today the Ross rifle has no equal, and with the proper ammunition can do more and better shooting than any other rifle manufactured. Were it not for the work done by the Ross rifles, how could 12,000 Canadians hold an army of 120,000 Germans at bay, when the latter were equipped with hundreds of machine guns, field guns, aeroplanes and modern heavy artillery?

HARMONY PREVAILED.

When, year by year, from 1911 to 1914, I was quietly, but surely and firmly, getting the Canadians prepared for the year, which anyone who carefully studied conditions could

foresee, the Conservative members stood firmly and loyally, and, although the increase was large, they trusted my judgment. I have always appreciated and never betrayed this trust and confidence.

It appears there was recently considerable speculation in some quarters, regarding the attitude I would take in my remarks on the Address. My comrades of the Conservative party, however, again paid me the highest of compliments in implicitly trusting me. Although I had not informed the members in the session 1914-15, or in that of 1915-16, of the causes of the trouble, and thus not having given them an opportunity of taking action to compel proper consideration on the part of some of my colleagues, yet with scarcely an exception the members realized that nothing would be said by me to injure a brother member in his constituency, or to harm the party as such in the country. They were pleased to find their confidence justified.

Since then, however, several members and others have learned a few of the facts, and they regret that I did not inform them at the time, so that prompt and decisive action in the premises could have been taken by the party.

FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS.

Previous to the war the finances of Canada had fallen from the buoyant conditions of 1911-12-13 to the verge of extreme depression. Factories were closed; on every hand "Hard Times" stared industries and people in the face; and "want of confidence" held the trade and commerce of the country firmly in its grasp. I then notified the Finance Minister that his proper functions were to develop correct means of raising the revenue; to keep the finances buoyant, and the trade of the country prosperous.

When the war broke out conditions became even worse.

INTERFERENCE IN BRITAIN.

The interferences in Britain by Sir George Perley, who took the position, notwithstanding Canada paid all the bills, that our Canadian troops on leaving our shores practically became "British Regulars," and should not be directly under the control of Canada, but under the British; that British society influences should dominate our hospitals, and Sir George Perley's views rule. His interferences also were disintegrating on the troops.

ORGANIZING AN ARMY.

For the First Division, the contracting, and the entire organization were unique. Almost every known rule of warfare was departed from, and in every case my judgment proved correct. Not only have the British and French Governments followed my plan of committees, made up of good military men, combined with excellent business men from civil life, but Russia has followed suit, and the United States had already, in January, 1917, begun to organize along similar lines. The same holds good in every line of the service.

The purchasing for the First Division, with the exception of trucks and bicycles, is regarded as the most successful in history. By arrangement with the Prime Minister—time being important—there were few Orders-in-Council of any kind until the work was accomplished, although careful checks were regularly made.

The next stage in the contracting was adopted during my absence in England in 1914. A sub-committee of the Privy Council, of which the Acting Minister of Militia was a member, would receive the reports from the Quartermaster-General and Director of Contracts, and make the recommendations to the Privy Council.

A PROPER SYSTEM.

On my return I protested against this procedure, and the following

was adopted:—The Minister of Militia would receive the reports from the Quartermaster-General and Director of Contracts, and make recommendations to the Privy Council, who, I understand, referred them for consideration to a sub-committee of Council. Both systems caused serious delays, inconvenience and loss, and were abandoned.

The next system was the War Purchasing Commission, to whom the Militia Department refers all recommendations.

My own proposition, at the beginning of the war, and always, was to have a committee of capable business men assist the Director of Contracts, and I am still of opinion this would have been by all odds the best system. The sub-committee principles were absurd, while the War Purchasing Commission is, in some regards, objectionable and weak.

It is only fair to state, however, that early in the war hundreds of business firms of all kinds sought contracts, great and small, begging for work and frankly assigning the reason that they must go into bankruptcy if they could not get something to do.

With the loosening up and distribution of money, and the restoration of financial confidence in the country, caused by the work of the old Shell Committee, and the manufacture of steel in Canada, the importunities gradually lessened, and finally disappeared; but for some months previous the distress amongst business people was so great that contractors were most persistent in begging and praying for work of any description; and discontent, naturally, arose with a few.

EARL KITCHENER'S REQUEST.

At the beginning of the war, Lord Kitchener asked me to undertake the purchase of clothing, equipment, etc., for the British and French Governments. With the great amount of work on hand, it was impossible for

me to personally undertake these duties, so I recommended a Committee, who would be under the supervision of the Director of Contracts, to purchase in the United States and Canada. The commodities needed were then mostly obtainable only in the former country.

I informed the Prime Minister of my action, and also Lord Kitchener, who was agreeable.

MORE INTERFERENCE.

On my return the following week to Ottawa from Valcartier, I learned that a sub-committee of the Privy Council had been formed instead, and entrusted with the work.

This sub-committee was subsequently abandoned and the work entrusted direct to British agencies.

When I had informed the proposed committee of their appointment and of my plans, I suggested that they should immediately secure options on all commodities known to be wanted. Prices were then normal. At once options were secured on large numbers of horses, on woollen goods, on certain powder commodities, etc. It was therefore rather a rude shock to my proposed committee to find that authority had been given to a sub-committee as stated; but there was nothing to be done but frankly inform the parties from whom the options had been received of the change in plan, and to cancel the options.

A SAVING OF MILLIONS.

Early in the war all the contracts made by the British Government agents in the United States were treated by the American contractors as contraband, and the contractors would not undertake to ship materials to any warring nation. How to get the goods delivered was a conundrum. It was solved by having them shipped to a point in the United States, and trans-shipped across the St. Lawrence by water via

Canada, with the full authority and knowledge of the Department of Customs at Ottawa, and by order of Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs, and thence onward to Britain.

This trans-shipment by water was subsequently found to be unnecessary, as it was arranged with the American railway systems to have the goods re-shipped via Canada by train, and onwards to Britain. Later arrangements were made to ship direct from the Port of New York. All this action never cost Canada or Great Britain one dollar. Further, had the options on goods in the earlier part of the war been accepted at the time I had recommended the Committee, the saving to the British Government in the first six months of the war alone, would have been upwards of one hundred million of dollars.

It must be remembered that once this Committee were passed over, they were as free as any men in Canada or the United States to deal on their own account with Britain, France, Canada, or any other land. I frankly told them so, and from that hour, neither directly nor indirectly, were they in any transaction under any obligation to me, nor was I to them.

Let us now turn to another aspect. At the outbreak of the war, as I have stated, Canada had practically been brought to the verge of bankruptcy, and my fear then was that we would not be able to maintain more than one division in the firing line.

I had on two previous occasions pointedly drawn the Finance Minister's attention to the fact that his function was to produce a revenue, keep the business of the country buoyant, and thus, everything being prosperous, money would be easily obtainable. In this, however, success did not attend his efforts; or, rather, my suggestions were not accepted by that gentleman.

THE SHELL COMMITTEE.

When Lord Kitchener cabled me to get two hundred thousand shrapnel shells made in the United States, I concluded that our splendid industrial captains could manufacture them in Canada. My conclusion resulted in the formation of the old Shell Committee—a fine, honourable, capable and patriotic body. The Committee was composed of:

General Sir Alexander Bertram.

Colonel Thomas Cantley.

Colonel David Carnegie.

Colonel Watt, and certain officers of the Militia Department.

In the preliminary stages of the work of the Shell Committee the question of steel arose, and we were officially informed that Canada's basic steel would not do, but that acid steel must be imported. I at once demanded the reason why. The reply was that Britain, in fact all lands, used acid steel, because basic steel was not suitable. I replied, "That is no answer. What I want to know is, why it will not do? Why is it not suitable?" The reason then assigned was something about phosphorus and sulphur in our ore. Then I suggested, "We will adapt our ore to the steel."

Colonel Cantley undertook the experiment with Canadian basic steel, and was finally triumphant. He so prepared the steel that it not only stood the Woolwich test and was accepted, but basic steel is used by all lands in the manufacture of shells to-day.

DEVELOPING CANADA'S RESOURCES.

It simply required, first, driving power to override the custom of generations in using acid steel; and, second, the skill, capability and perseverance of a man like Colonel Cantley to continue experimenting, at a cost of many thousands of dollars, to secure the correct process of manufacturing. The result has been

that Canadian workmen and Canadian mills have manufactured many billions of pounds of steel in Canada, to the benefit of Canadian bankers, merchants, workmen and their families.

The same line of policy as was pursued regarding steel was followed with zinc and copper. Backed up by the Shell Committee, I kept pounding away for months until, finally, for the first time in history, Canadian zinc and Canadian copper were refined in Canada.

The same holds good with the fish trade, which is, as yet, merely in its infancy. I had to practically smash aside scores of difficulties before I got the fish industry recognized, even with the Canadian troops. Now it has spread to the British troops, and I had plans laid for both France and Italy. The fish industry is money found. There is no reason why the Canadian fish exports should not, in another year or two, exceed one hundred million of dollars annually, and in ten years it might readily reach three hundred million of dollars. There need be no "meatless days" in Canada, for fish meat may readily be had.

Let us review. The Shell Committee was formed some considerable time and several millions of dollars of contracts let, before any very special attention was drawn to it. In those days people had to be cajoled, coaxed, humoured and assisted into the taking up of the manufacture of munitions, while banks would not readily loosen up. The Shell Committee then had few attractions for financial manipulators.

The next step witnessed that phase of human character which leads one not to take as conclusive immature views. Scores of people whom I had assured of success, if they entered the shell business at the beginning, and who would not touch it, on seeing others succeed in the industry, clamoured for contracts.

CANADA'S PROSPERITY.

General Bertram was by that time overrun by demands from Canadians for making shells. But orders came to him very spasmodically from Britain. The General could only give to Canadian industries the orders he obtained from the War Office; but he did his best, and by the end of 1915 had secured contracts for three hundred and fifty millions of dollars worth. The consequence was that times in Canada were good; banks were prosperous and ready to advance money for almost any cause; people had confidence; dinner pails were no longer empty; and, as a result of my refusal to place the order for two hundred thousand shrapnel shells in the United States, and what it led up to, Canada could and can raise her own domestic loans. These shells have done duty from St. Julien to the Somme, and from Vimy Ridge to Cambrai and St. Quentin.

Early in the war the proposal was made that I, as Minister of Militia, should pursue the policy of the South African War, and have all the money for these orders placed to my personal credit and paid out on my personal cheque. This I point blank refused to allow, but arranged that the credit should pass to the Shell Committee and be cashed by General Bertram. I had appointed an auditor, and from the outset took the precaution to have the accounts audited by the bank officials also.

THE NEW "NATIONAL" PARTY.

But the business was growing enormously, and the handling of three hundred and fifty millions would greatly brace up friendly institutions. Let us mark the outcome. The Shell Committee gave place to the Imperial Munitions Board. Mr. J. W. Flavelle has long been the President of the National Trust Company. The Finance Minister was for years the General Manager of that Company. Mr. Flavelle, certainly a capable financier,

became head of the new Imperial Munitions Board.

In March, 1916, attacks were renewed upon the old Shell Committee: These attacks, or conspiracies, upon the Shell Committee and myself are classed under a series of five heads:

(1) The attack in 1915 on General Bertram and his contracts. This consisted chiefly in agitations, inflaming nervous public opinion and paving the way for the second stage of the great conspiracy.

(2) The securing control of the finances of the new Imperial Munitions Board. (Incidentally it may be noted that the chief friends of that group, known as the "National" Party, were very active for some time in adverse criticism of General Bertram and all connected with the Shell Committee).

MALICE AND JEALOUSY.

(3) Political ambition seems next to have been aroused; and, while I was bending my best energies looking after our soldiers and the successful prosecution of the war, hoping for the end thereof that I might retire to private life, agitations towards my downfall were planned.

Data were obtained from the Imperial Munitions Board and every move possible was made to create a preliminary agitation against me, the old Shell Committee and all associated therewith; but the Meredith-Duff Commission found nothing but absolutely clean work.

(4) From the very outbreak of the war Sir George Perley has always been active, seeking to create an unhealthy atmosphere against me in England. Both he and the Finance Minister seemed to have had certain newspaper influence. The Canadian Associated Press, overseas, in England, paid by the money of Canada, is associated indirectly. Every insinuation or adverse criticism was sent to Canada. Perley was therefore a fit agent to be appointed the new Minister Overseas. A journal

in Toronto, upon which the Finance Minister once served, and which is generally regarded as his Toronto organ, viciously attacked me, while two Montreal papers, owned by a brother of that gentleman, were tuisistent in their adverse criticism.

Another plan or scheme seems to have been the sweetening of the newspapers of Canada by departing from the first principles of the National policy to secure printing paper at fixed price, and incidentally benefit to a considerable extent the Yankee newspapers. The rich advertisements by brokers, by the Government, paid for by the poor people of Canada in connection with loans, also tended to mollify criticism of the press, and secure neutral, if not favourable consideration and comment.

It is also asserted that an attempt to win the bankers, and brokers was made. To the bankers, undoubtedly, belongs the great credit for any success attending the issue of Canada's loans.

Upwards of one billion dollars at interest lay in Canadian Savings Banks drawing two and a half to three per cent.

Many millions more were sewn up in stockings, etc. The Bankers Association, a great organization, did the work. Upwards of a billion dollars, are, however, yet available at low rates of interest. Why, therefore, pay high rates?

Soon after the advent of the Imperial Munitions Board, the attacks of 1915 began to reappear against the old Shell Committee. Many of these came from the "National" party group and their friends.

The next move was the furnishing to the Liberal Party the material to bring about the attack which resulted in the Commission of Enquiry under Justices Meredith and Duff. The public were also prepared in advance by every class of insinuation and suggestion for a big scandal, which never materialized.

A CLEAN RECORD.

Although the Commission sat for many weeks, costing a tremendous sum of money, not one solitary improper act on the part of any one concerned was found.

Previous to my sailing for Europe last spring, 1916, I had heard rumours that there was going to be an attack made on the Militia Department. After consulting the Premier, and with his knowledge, I spoke to the leaders of the Liberal party; but one and all assured me that they knew nothing about any such attack. The rumours had included reports that some subordinate of the Liberal party had been making boasts.

A WARNING.

In New York the day I sailed, I was informed by a leading American financial magnate that I should not sail; that an attempt was about to be made to destroy me, and I was urged to cancel my trip. Thinking reference was had to torpedoes, I laughingly passed it off. The gentleman assured me, however, it was not torpedoes at sea, but "ENVE NOMED POISON ON THE PART OF SOME OF YOUR OWN COLLEAGUES IN THE CABINET WHO SEEK TO GET RID OF THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT WHO REALIZE THAT YOU ARE BEHIND HIM SOLID, AND IN ORDER TO GET RID OF HIM THEY MUST FIRST GET RID OF YOU."

I immediately wrote from New York to the Prime Minister, giving him a brief summary, and told him that in case anything turned up he was to cable me promptly, and I would return instantly. I have never yet been able to ascertain how the New York financial gentleman became possessed of the information.

(5) The next step appears after the failure of the judicial examination. The mind of the Finance Minister became troubled lest things must be wrong with finances in England

connection with the Canadian soldiers, and a Canadian Overseas Minister must be appointed. He read in the House his order to the Prime Minister to the effect. A willing coadjutor, in the person of Sir George Perley, was found. He had been out in Canada all last summer and had returned in order to take up his new duties. It never occurred to these gentlemen that if there was anything wrong financially a Finance Minister in England was much more necessary than a new Minister of Militia, but after an examination by himself and his Auditor-General of everything in England, he was forced to admit that he found the accounts and everything else connected therewith in splendid shape.

PROPER MANAGEMENT OVERSEAS.

Let me point out that the finances of the Canadian troops in England had been rotten; that more than a year and a half previously I had smashed down barriers, forced Canadian control, appointed reliable and capable officers, and I knew things were all right.

I had known that in 1915 our convalescent system in England was wrong. I laid out a plan, ordered it enforced at all costs, and my officers' loyalty carried it out. This system has been the model for every warring nation, enemy or friend, and in one year it saved Canada upwards of six millions of dollars.

But I also knew that the business end of the medical service was badly in need of reorganization. This I proceeded to tackle in 1916. It has been greatly improved, but stands in need of much greater improvement. The pet "V.A.D." "Matrimonial Bureau" system, dear to the heart of Colonials of the Sir George Perley brand, was marked for reformation.

I also had other plans for reorganizing the forces, not one of which has been materially interfered with, except to the injury of the service

and at great cost to Canada.

RECRUITING HELD UP.

With the business management of the Finance Department I will deal on another occasion; but the "high finance"; the "sweetening of the press of Canada"; the attempts to influence the bankers and brokers of Canada,—all these and more, at the cost of the poor people of this land, who have been taxed millions of dollars thereby, are gradually becoming understood by the general public.

More than one year ago an agitation was begun on the question of labour. We were recruiting "too many regiments"; we were "taking too many men away from work"; "munitions manufacturers and others would be at a standstill"; "farmers could not put in their crops"; and "Canada has already done her full duty," were daily recited. They unfortunately, had an effect upon the Prime Minister. The result was that I was asked in March, 1916, not to press recruiting, and recruiting today is, and has been dead in Canada for fighting purposes. "Safety First," or the useful and well paid, but not dangerous jobs, are readily filled; but for the gallant boys in the trenches there is little or no backing.

In October last I notified the Prime Minister of my belief that we must resort to compulsory service. I said the same, speaking for myself only, in Toronto, at large meetings under the auspices of the Empire Club, of the Conservative Association, and at the Metropolitan Church, and everywhere my proposition met with approval. I addressed meetings in Belleville and many other places, and the same sentiments received tremendous endorsement. I have suggested again and again the application of the Militia Act.

OUR DUTY—ACTION.

One thing stands forth prominently; for twelve months Can-

ada has done very little in the way of recruiting. There is a world-wide war on; now is the time our boys at the front need assistance; and I demand that NOW they shall receive assistance. Our cause must triumph, and NOW is the time for action. Liberty is endangered—we must bend every energy in prompt action to save that priceless gem.

Upwards of nine months have been lost from a military viewpoint by dependence on the National Service Commission; about four more months will be frittered away before people rise against the present C. D. F. plan of recruiting. Possibly by that time some other scheme to kill time and prevent recruiting will be devised; but the war is not yet won, although our gallant boys, as well as all the Allies, are doing noble work.

What I want to impress upon you however, is that we are in the war and the war is far from being finished. It has cost about one million men along the Somme this year. Our men at the front are overworked, and have no rest; while we have hundreds of thousands of young men in Canada who should be doing their duty. On a later occasion my views will be made known on this aspect of the case.

I am merely seeking to do my duty to each brother Member of Parliament and the party and country, generally, in submitting these facts.

But ACTION is an important word and a more important factor.

"THE SOLDIERS' RETURN."

The returned soldier must have a chance. The old song must no more be sung:—

"When war's proclaimed and danger's nigh,
'God and the soldier' is the cry.
When wars are over and wrongs are righted,
God is forgotten and the soldier slighted."

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Such must not, shall not occur after this war. Nor must he be treated as a pet. All he asks is a fair field and no favor. He will get both. Positions must hunt for the soldier, and not vice versa.

We must consider the following points:—

There is fictitious prosperity at present.

Canada must be developed.

Let us unite with Newfoundland.

Build railways, improve old ones.

Construct wagon roads.

Sell lands, reserving some for homesteads.

Impose settlement and development conditions.

Look after coal and fuel supply.

Develop fisheries.

Develop ores.

Look after drainage.

Control internal combustion fuel for road revenue.

Encourage experimental development works at Ottawa.

Develop shipbuilding, trawlers, etc.

Soldiers must vote, or have right to do so.

Man loses no right of citizenship on becoming a soldier.

CONCLUSION.

For the future, as in the past, I have but one desire, the prosecution of the war to a successful issue; the overthrow of autocracy, and the establishment of democracy on a secure foundation. I have longed for the conclusion of the war. I want further to affirm that party means principles; men are mere incidents.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.

In 1896 the Conservative party was wrecked because its quondam leaders departed from the principles of the Conservative party. I stand by the principles of the Conservative party, and when temporary leaders depart from those principles, rest assured I shall stand by the principles of the party.

What of the future ?

The Conservative party does not want Commissions, whose functions are DELAY and INACTION.

Nor the surrender to any plausible and cunningly prepared assault on the principles of the National Policy of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Nor professions of sympathy with the soldiers at the front, while failing to back them up with well trained reinforcements.

Nor Lilliputian amateur political leaders in the land of Brobdingnag. They want men of grasp, of large calibre, of stout heart, of prompt action; men with the will and power to do, and the soul to dare for Liberty and Right.

The principles of the great Liberal-Conservative party among much else, involve :

Prompt and wise conclusions, and as prompt action.

The maintenance of the policy of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The recognition of the principle :— "A British Freeman I was born; a British Freeman I will die."

Appreciation of our soldiers at the front, by supporting them with men from Canada.

Realizing this is a fight to a finish between autocracy and tyranny of the Dark Ages, and the free democracies of the world of the 20th century.

The exclusion of personal ambition, intrigue, hypocrisy, misrepresentation.

The great aims : "FINISH THE WAR"; "BACK UP OUR GALLANT LADS IN THE TRENCHES WITH OTHER CANADIAN LADS"; "LAY THE FOUNDATION DEEP AND STRONG OF PERSONAL HUMAN LIBERTY FOREVER."

I stand now as always, by the grand old Conservative party and its principles. For twenty-seven sessions I have fought and won or fought and fallen with the splendid men of that cause. We will still

serve shoulder to shoulder in the great fight now regarded so seriously by all good citizens. From the Atlantic to Pacific one call is clear :— "Let Canada do her full duty in the war." "Let our boys at the front receive proper support." "Let us apply the Militia Act throughout Canada, in each and every Province alike." "Let us stand by the rule, "EQUAL LAWS AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR NONE." "Let us call out and train 150,000 to 200,000 more men and have half of them at the front by Autumn. IT CAN, IT SHOULD BE DONE. WILL IT BE DONE?"

WHAT OF OUR OLD TIME LIBERAL FRIENDS ?

Our friends of the great Liberal party have fought side by side with Liberal-Conservatives in this great struggle. The lads have fallen together; they rest together heroes in the greatest struggle for which mankind has ever given sacrifice; the golden lilies of France, the crimson poppies of Belgium, and the red and white roses of England bloom over their resting places together; none knew the other as aught but CANADIAN, fellow heroes in fighting for freedom.

Why then should those not at the front perpetuate the petty bickerings and childish squabbles of party politics? Where men hold the same political views, why should the old party labels be worn, at least during the war? The great Liberal-Conservative principles embody winning the war by doing our best. I know that this audience endorses these views.

This war has made people serious. Men are more steadfast, women more holy, for the great sacrifices made. Let us then join hands in the one great cause and triumph.

Two hundred thousand additional Canadians in arms would tend to terminate the war.

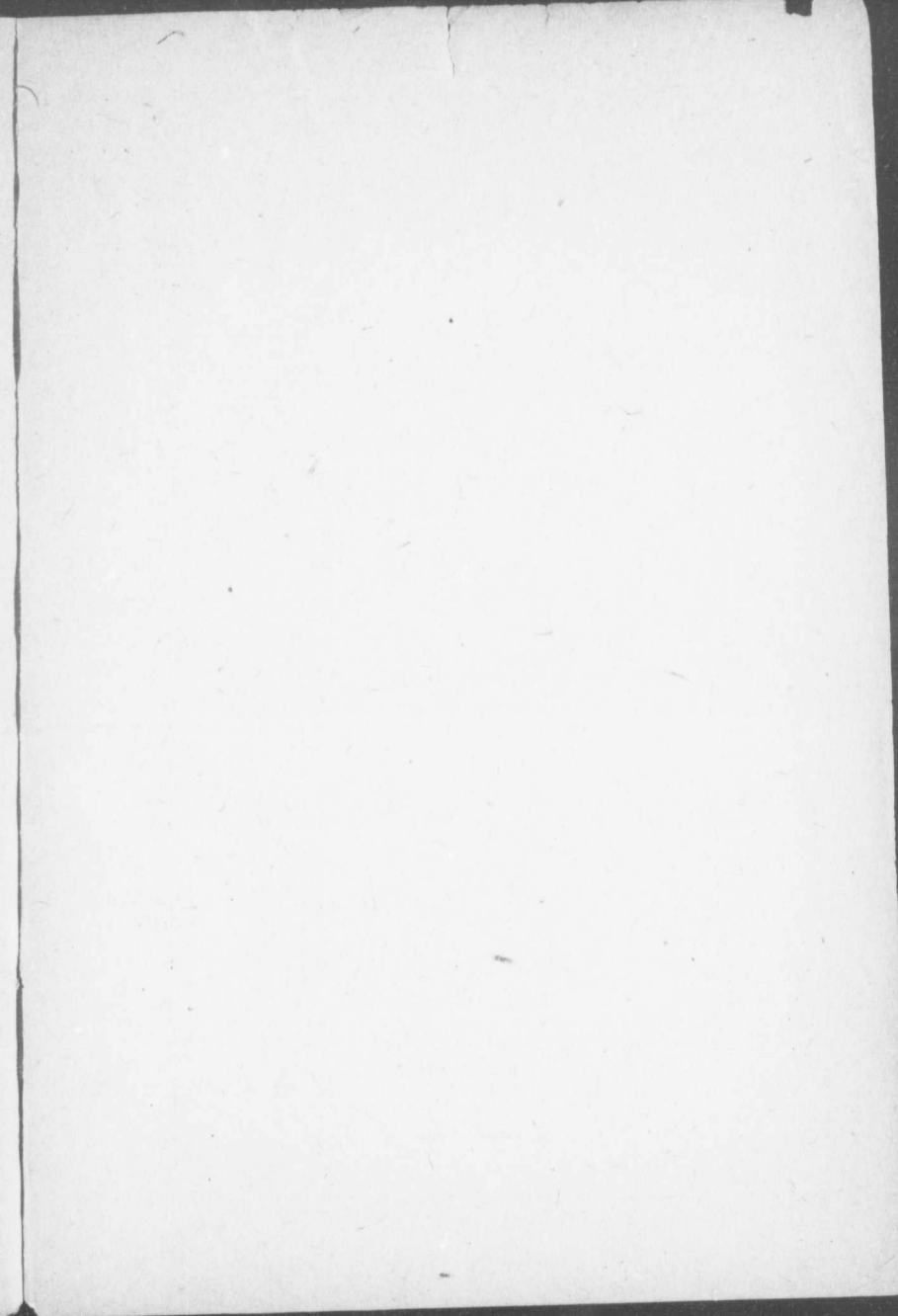
How can we ever look the returning soldiers squarely in the face if our duty in supporting them at the front is undone?

Already this riding of Victoria and Haliburton, from a population of about forty thousand, has sent upwards of four thousand. The Lindsay Collegiate Institute alone has about three hundred ex-cadets on duty at the front. Many of this

number have already fallen gloriously; but more arise, inspired by the heroic examples, to take their places. To the mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, ay, and sweethearts of these brave fellows, we offer heartfelt sympathy and appreciation.

May the war soon terminate, is our fervent wish. But until it terminates there must be no inaction.





WANDER. PRINT