

# TRULY GREAT WAS COLONEL THE HONORABLE SAM'S TORTURED BY GENERALSHIP IN THE BATTLE OF THE ESTIMATES

But Wilcox, of North Essex, a Soldier of His Own  
Conservative Army, Fired on Him From Behind  
and Hit Him in the Leg--O, Treason!

(Special to The Herald and Toronto Star.)

Ottawa, March 22.—In the old days Sir Frederick Borden's militia estimates went through with a smile and a shrug and Col. Sam Hughes, a friendly critic, nodded Aye. The House still seems to regard the militia estimates as a big, expensive, grim sort of joke, but this new Opposition has a different sense of humor. Colonel the Honorable Sam, has to fight to put things over. The Jigadier Brindles behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier are on Colonel Sam's back all the time.

While he was under fire Colonel the Honorable Sam, had to meet every known kind of attack, frontal, flank movements, feints, reconnaissances in force, sniping, volley firing, and cannonading. They shot at him from every position lying down, standing up, and on their backs. Wilcox, of North Essex, capped it all by standing on his head and shooting, point blank, at three paces, from the rear, Colonel the Honorable Sam, his own leader, in the lumbar regions, or thereabouts.

Colonel the Honorable Sam survived all wounds, whether in front or behind, and though sometimes driven into last ditch arguments, made a gallant defence and never once lost his temper. And, as everybody knows, he that conquereth his own heart is greater than he that taketh a city.

CARVELL WAS BRIGADIER.

It was Carvell, of New Brunswick, that started the fun. Carvell must have been a colonel himself, at some time or other. At any rate he knows his book. Carvell did the bombarding. Macdonald, of Pictou, acted as the cavalry in reserve. Nesbitt, Lemieux, Beland, Kay, Verville, Clarke, Boyer, Ochschoim, Edwards, Pugsley, McGree, Tobin, and Emmerson, did valuable scouting and guerrilla work and are hereby mentioned in the despatches.

Let us see how the Minister of Militia conquered his battle and what, as little Peterkin would say, the war was all about. The first line of attack was caretakers. Carvell wanted to know why, if Colonel the Honorable Sam, was going to be as careful of the morals of the militia as the statements in his pamphlet indicated, he had fired a veteran of many wars from the caretakers of the army at Woodstock, N. B., and appointed in his place a fur-seller. There was a sharp interchange of musketry on this subject, in which these facts were uncovered. The caretaker was a Grit and had taught Grit politics before the election to the young ideas who were learning to shoot. In future Tory caretakers will be employed unless a Grit caretaker is so much fitted that he makes the other look like thirty cents. This system will be followed right to the top. Other things being equal, Tory courage and Tory generalship will lead our armies, wear our gold lace, and take care of our drill sheds. Promotions in the service will not be on political lines, and if the ruthless invader ever sets foot on our sacred soil Grit voters will be cheerfully called out and given front places in the firing line. So far as dying for one's country is concerned, Colonel the Honorable Sam is not going to favor his own party at the expense of the Grits.

STORMING THE PEARLY GATE.

Colonel the Honorable Sam is going to spend \$13,000 in cadet camps this summer. Under the eye of the parson and the schoolmaster, and other good influences, 40,000 boys are to camp in their local centres and get the benefit of a positive training, that will build up body and character, teach them discipline, and rational obedience—you'll find it in Colonel Sam's pamphlet—prevent them drinking, and smoking cigarettes, and prepare them, as Carvell says, to go sweeping through the pearly gates at almost any minute. Colonel the Honorable Sam's experiment does not clash with the Strathcona Fund of \$500,000 for physical drill in the public schools, nor with the Boy Scouts movement. On the contrary, it has a kindly eye on both. Colonel the Honorable Sam hopes to take them all under the wing of the Militia Department, though he doesn't intend to mix

them up with the Militia. The cadets and years ahead of what we are are just a side-line—raw material to now, instead of being two thousand years behind. Only heaven and Hamvenile movement that Colonel the Honorable Sam's dreams do not embrace is the Girl Guides, who can hardly be expected to fit in until women suffrage gives them man's rights and man's dangers. Colonel the Honorable Sam protests that there is no militarism in this cadet business, although he does admit that cadeting is going to make better soldiers of them, if soldiering be their bent. In which connection he recalls that the Battle of Alma was won by boys under seventeen years of age. Would it be a rash guess to say that the cadet camps squint at recruiting for the militia? The gist of Colonel the Honorable Sam's remarks on the subject is that physical training has a moral reaction which will keep the boys from committing crimes by training them to commit murders. One phase of the educational movement appears to have been overlooked. Although discussion ranged wide, no mention was made of the lectures on military subjects in the colleges and universities. The Militia Department also smiles on this line of endeavor, which aims to give bloodshed an intellectual standing.

A BATTLE OF AUTOMOBILES.

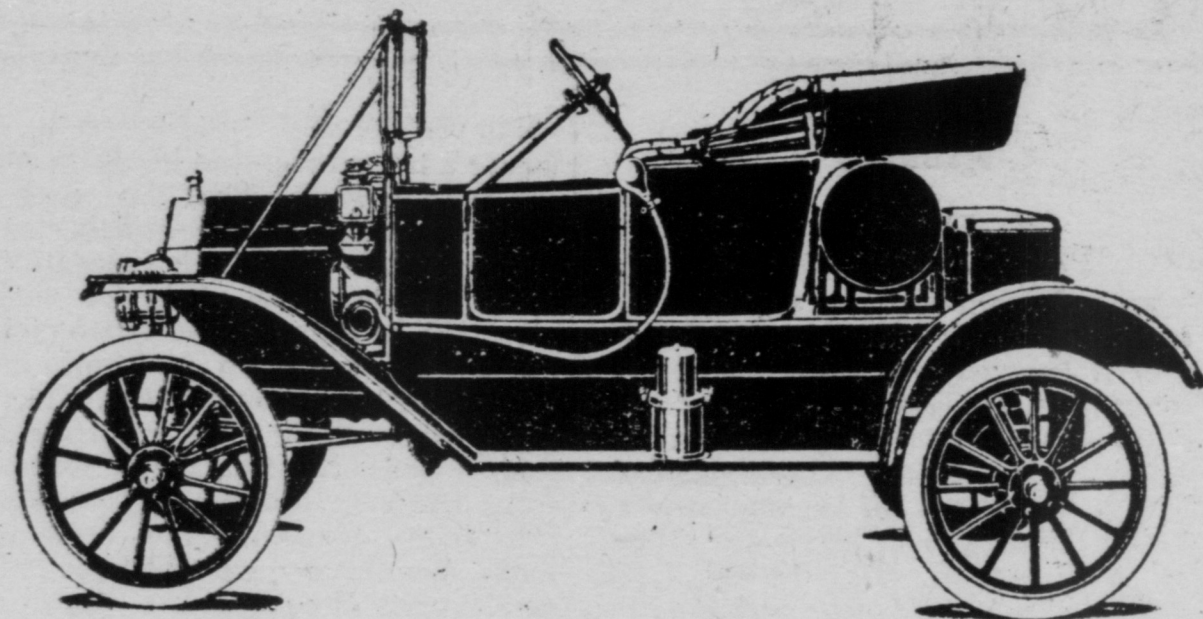
The battle raged fiercest around Colonel the Honorable Sam's twelve automobiles for D. O. C.'s. Colonel Sam promises to get twenty-four of them next year. This is a rapid age, and automobiles are the only way to keep abreast of it. As Ham Burnham, peace prophet, rose-water philosopher and friend of old age, pointed out in his own lucid manner, if ancient Rome had had automobiles in her army, she would not have fallen and so would have been two thousand

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ing so. Of course Wilcox didn't want any commission, but he did say to Colonel Sam, "Can't you put in a good word for me with that con- Oh, the D. O. C.'s orderly would tend to that job. Carvell said he had yet to see the D. O. C. who worked more than ten hours a day. He complained that the country was so full of generals and colonels that he was always tripping over them. He objected to adding to their pan- ophy of pride by giving them auto- mobiles to swell around in and take joy rides. Verville surmised that the automobiles might be given to the generals so that they could run away before the butchering began— an automobile being much faster than the fastest Arab steed.

BITING SAM IN THE LEG.

But it was Wilcox, of North Essex, who dealt the cruellest stroke. Gruchy did a cruel thing when he failed to help Napoleon at Waterloo. But Wilcox did a crueler. He stung his general in the rear. He hit him in the leg. Wilcox is what you might call a local politician. In fact you might call him the local politician you ever saw in the House of Commons. His mind is absolutely bounded by the boundaries of North Essex. He loves North Essex as he loves himself. Wilcox is a Conservative, but he doesn't look on that as any reason why Colonel the Honorable Sam should spread himself over North Essex and order automobiles from Grit automobile firms without consulting him. The ground he takes is that not to consult him is to insult him, and the rule applies to Cabinet Ministers just as much as to anybody else who has automobiles to buy or patronage to distribute. As the representative of the free people of North Essex, Wilcox insists on having his look in on everything. Wilcox produced letters from Walkerville, the place where the whiskey comes from, setting forth the fact that the automobile company was run by Grits. Wilcox had evidently been reading these letters closely for he was full of the subject. At any rate he didn't wait Colonel the Honorable Sam to be making automobile purchases over his head, and he made no bones of say-

porarily disposed of by the device of an appeal for a judicial interpretation of the power of Parliament; the task of formulating a naval policy was put off till a more convenient season. The extension of the civil service rules to the outside service was deferred till the service has been purged of Liberals, a process that goes forward increasingly. The consumers of the West, who have been insistently calling for tariff reductions on agricultural implements, the manufacturers in certain lines, who have been demanding that the pledge of adequate protection be adhered to; the iron and steel interests, which have been making strong representations as to the necessity for the renewal of the bounties, have all been told that action has been deferred till the Tariff Commission is formed and gets to work.

In the few things undertaken there has been much trouble for the Government. On the boundary and Manitoba school issues seven of the Nationalist-Conservatives from Quebec bolted. Mr. Bourassa, who so recently as September was hailed as one of the leaders of the party, is denouncing the betrayal of the Nationalist cause by Messrs. Monk, Pelletier, and Nantel, who were chosen to guard it within the Cabinet. The Grain Act also caused a bolt from the Government, two of the Eastern Conservatives voting against it. The measure has satisfied no one, and is likely to make active enemies among both farmers and dealers. The measure for the granting of aid toward road-building awakened no enthusiasm. Clause six, which confers upon the Minister of Railways the power to build highways in any Province with the consent of the Provincial authorities, is so direct an intrusion upon the rights and powers of the municipalities and the Provincial authorities that the opposition to it in the Commons is certain to be continued, and perhaps more effectively, in the Senate and in the country.

It will be with a feeling of real relief that Ministers will hear the prorogation message. They have discovered that the alliance of the Big Interests with the Orange Imperialists and the anti-British Nationalists, which proved so effective in defeating the Laurier Government, was essentially a destructive force, and is of very little use in constructive political work. It is altogether likely that Mr. Borden and his colleagues will spend a large part of the summer in screwing up their courage to the point of defying the Quebec Nationalists on the navy issue as well as on the school question, and in determining whether tariff revision, when it comes, shall be planned for the benefit of the Big Interests or of the "clamorous consumers" who have earned the scorn of Messrs. Ames and Cockshutt and others of the high-protectionist wing. By November the Ministry may have mustered up courage to go forward confidently even in the dark.

## THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA

The Right Hon. R. L. Borden and his colleagues were afraid to go home in the dark. At every rustle of the tree-tops, at every sound in the underbrush, at every turn in the road there is evidence of timidity and irresolution. Caution is a good quality in Governments new or Government old, but it is not caution that sways the Borden Ministry; it is fear. The progress of the session now rapidly drawing to an end at Ottawa has been marked by example after example of the indecision and lack of driving power that must ultimately prove the undoing of the Government. The ne temere difficulty was tem-

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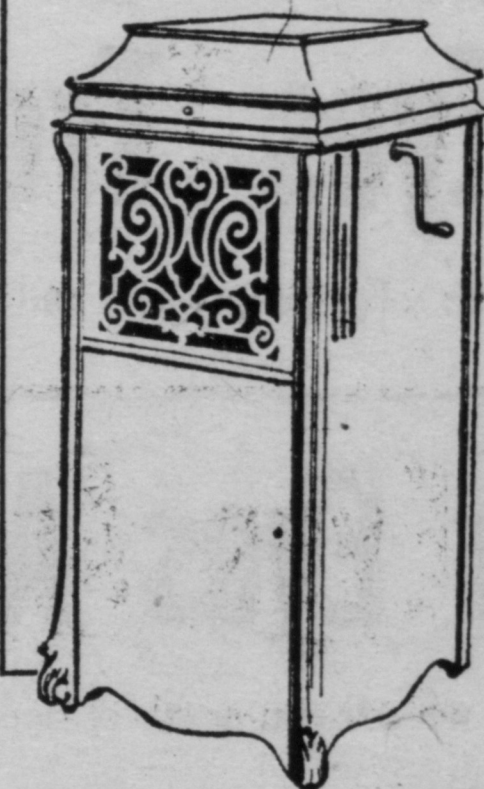
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