

## LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR SAM HUGHES, K.C.B., M.P., F.R.C.I.

When the proposal to organize a Canadian Scottish battalion in New Brunswick, having for its officers men who had seen active service on the Western front, was first mooted and the outlined plans submitted to Sir Sam Hughes, it received the hearty support of the then Minister of Militia and Defence, and it was largely due to his official co-operation that the plans met with such success, to which it might be added that he did us the honour of allowing the corps to be known by the title of "Sir Sam's Own." Since the authority for raising the battalion was granted by Ottawa to Lieut.-Col. Percy A. Guthrie, Sir Sam has taken a warm and personal interest in the organization and recruiting of the unit. The mere fact of General Hughes' resignation of his portfolio as Minister of Militia and Defence does not make us any less proud to bear his name. We are glad to be able to give, in this number of the regimental journal of "Sir Sam's Own," a short account of his brilliant career and to publish a photograph of him in the supplement which accompanies this issue.

Lieutenant-General Sir Sam Hughes, K. C. B., M. P., F. R. C. I., was born in the town of Darlington, Ontario, on January 8, 1853. He was educated at the local schools of his home town, at the Toronto Model and Normal schools, and at Toronto University. He was always a brilliant scholar and, on receiving his degree of Bachelor in Arts, he also obtained honour certificates in French, English, German and History. On his graduation from the Toronto Normal School, he led his class and received a first class diploma.

Sir Sam Hughes entered military life at an early age, he served in the Fenian Raids of 1870 and 1873 receiving the Canada General Service Medal with one clasp. He was gazetted a Lieutenant in the 45th Victoria Regiment, of which he is now Honourary Colonel. In 1878 he was promoted Captain and accepted the appointment of Adjutant of his regiment, ten years later he received his brevet majority, although in 1886 he had been acting Brigade-Major of Military District No. 3. He was made a Major in 1895 and two years later rose to command his regiment with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In this capacity he took part in the military display at London, England, on the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. On this occasion he was complimented by Imperial inspecting officers on having one of the finest trained units in the Canadian Militia. In October of the same year, war being imminent in South Africa, he tendered to the government the services of the 45th Victoria Regiment to proceed on

active service to any part of the globe, at the same time he offered his personal services in any capacity in which they might be utilized. In 1897 and 1898 he visited Australia, New Zealand and Fiji in the interest of colonial assistance in the Boer War and his mission was productive of fine results. On his return to Canada in 1899 he took up the duties of acting Brigadier at Niagara and carried them out in a very creditable manner. Later in 1899 he went out to South Africa and there so distinguished himself that he was mentioned in despatches no less than three times and rose to a place on the staff as Assistant Adjutant-General of South African Field Forces. He took part in the operations in Cape Colony, south of the Orange River, during 1899 and the early part of 1900. Later in that year he joined the force north of the Orange River and was present at the action of Fabers Put on the 30th May. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with three clasps.

At the completion of the war, and peace being made with the Boers, Sir Sam returned to Canada, receiving a well-merited promotion to the rank of Colonel in recognition of his valuable services in South Africa. In 1905 he was appointed Railway Intelligence Officer at Headquarters. He has been successively promoted to the ranks of Major-General and Lieutenant-General.

In his civil career he has been no less successful than in the military. In the House of Commons he is noted as a brilliant debater, with an eye to details and facts. Scrupulously honest and upright himself he sometimes failed to see dishonesty in others, but when it did come to his notice it was quickly and sternly punished. In early life he was a school-teacher in the town of Bowmanville, Ontario, and also taught in Lifford and the city of Belleville. Later he became Lecturer in English Language and Literature at Toronto Collegiate Institute, which position he resigned in order to take up journalism. He bought the Lindsay "Warder" and became editor of the publication. Not content with the success he made of his paper, he decided to take up the study of law, entering the practice of that profession in Lindsay.

Sir Sam Hughes' political career opened in 1902 when he was elected to the House of Commons. He at once took a prominent place in the Conservative party, then in opposition. His unusual debating ability and his intimate acquaintance with military affairs, made his assistance invaluable to the party. He attended the Coronation of King George and Queen Mary at London in 1911,

and was presented to their majesties, together with other prominent men from the Dominions. On the defeat of the Laurier administration on the reciprocity question in September 1911, he was selected for a place in the new cabinet formed by Sir Robert Borden and was sworn in as Minister of Militia and Defence, which position he held until his resignation a short time ago. In 1916 he was honored by the King by being created a Civil Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Lieutenant-General Sir Sam Hughes is in every respect a "big" man. Although he has resigned his position of Minister of Militia and Defence he is no less the leading military man of Canada. He is a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, an honor only accorded to the most prominent men of the Dominions who have done great service to the Empire. In his work as head of the military forces of the Dominion his attention was given to even the smallest details and no one can deny that much of the credit given to Canada for her part in this great war, is due to his wonderful organizing genius. The formation of the First Contingent, of which Canadians are so justly proud, was carried on under his supervision and much of the praise that that body of men received from Imperial officers in England can be traced to the careful and thorough training that was given them here.

That Sir Sam had faults is not to be denied, for no one can deny that about any man, but they were far overshadowed by his great abilities and sterling qualities. Even his political enemies have been forced to give him praise. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Liberal party, has said of him, "He has done more in his day and generation for the upbuilding of the militia in Canada and in the Empire than any other man." When the very names of those who criticise him today are forgotten he will live on the pages of history as one of the great men of Canada and of the British Empire.

As he was hailed in England, we honour him today—"the Kitchener of Canada."

### Final Inspection

Not since the days when the 1st Bn. Seaforth Highlanders were quartered in Fredericton has the Queen St. Barracks parade ground witnessed a review of Kiltie troops as on Tuesday afternoon, May 15, when, what is believed to be the final inspection of the New Brunswick Kilties took place. The battalion drawn up in line was closely inspected by Major General T. Benson, G. O. C. No. 6 M. D., Brigadier General H. H. MacLean, G. O. C. New Brunswick Command and Major A. N. Jones, G. S. O. No. 6 M. D. In full dress order, the striking colours of the tartan of the Maclean of Duart, added a picturesque touch to the military setting. Both brass and pipe bands played alternately during the inspection, which was witnessed by a large gathering of notable citizens.