

MAJOR GENERAL HUGHES DEFENDS HIS DEPARTMENT

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—General Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia, will fight his own battles in parliament and fight them "from the drop of the hat," but he is not hitting a head we never he sees it in behalf of anybody else. The rest of the government can look out for themselves.

General Sam, clad in khaki, addressed himself to parliament this afternoon. Crowded galleries expected fireworks. There was curiosity to hear how the irrepressible militant would meet the serious charges of F. B. Carvell. Sir Sam didn't meet them. He did not shrink from them. He took them up, looked over them and said they didn't belong to his fight.

"The conduct and operations of the shell committee do not come under review by this parliament," was his verdict.

He left absolutely unanswered the scores of specific charges made yesterday by Mr. Carvell. But General Sam touched them where they touched him. He instanced the three contracts awarded to firms in his own constituency. These firms, he maintained, all included in their membership well known Liberals—"that is, they were Liberals before the war. There are no Liberals at this time." In this connection he complained naively that General Bertram had not looked after him and his constituency properly.

"Bertram might have known," quoth the general, with a grin, "that I was too busy to join the horde of hunters and promoters hanging round him, and should have looked after me."

The general inaugurated the shell business in Canada and named the shell committee. He told the House so. He attended two of its meetings its first and its last. For anything else he disclaimed responsibility. He was concerned with developing and building up the munitions industry in Canada with all its ramifications, which would be immensely valuable after the war. In so far as the committee worked upon those lines he was "back of them, morning, noon and night."

SIR SAM'S BALANCE WHEEL.

Sir Sam associated with himself in the big work he claimed he was doing for Canada and the empire only one of his ministerial associates. That was the prime minister.

"I may be a little erratic and all that kind of thing," said the general, amid laughter, "but I felt that a balance wheel could be found in the prime minister and in everything I

consulted him."

No distinction had been made, emphatically declared the minister, between Liberals and Conservatives in his handling of the department since the war began. Men of both parties stood shoulder to shoulder, so far as he was concerned. Both had done their duty—and did it well. A majority of the Canadian commanding officers now at the front and the officers of all ranks, were Liberals. This was natural, said Sir Sam, because he found when he entered the department that most of the trained and qualified officers were Liberals.

There were Liberals on the shell committee, including the paymaster general, J. W. Borden, a brother of Premier Borden, who, said Sir Sam, "belongs to the Liberal branch of the Borden family."

"If," added the minister of militia "the leader of the opposition will suggest any good Liberal who is not too old or decrepit to serve, I'll put an officer's uniform on him at once."

It was a characteristic speech that kept an appreciative House interested and at times laughing. Its conclusion was equally characteristic. He paid tribute to all classes of the community, the women, the clergy, the press and the German Canadians.

Sir Sam spoke from a small notebook, from the pages of which he took his points. Apparently still in the midst of his speech he turned over one of the minutes' pages. The next was blank.

"I'm through," was the general's abrupt peroration. He sat down, amid cheers and laughter.

POLITICS ARE RAMPANT.

D. D. MacKenzie, North Cape Breton, who followed General Hughes, declared that in spite of the latter's assertions that there was no politics in the department, there was no politics in the department, there was from the very beginning and that partizanship still existed. The war had shown what Canadian enterprise and initiative could do in the manufacture of shells. Similarly Canada could have built warships if the government had allowed her to undertake the task.

Mr. MacKenzie asserted that in Nova Scotia the party patronage committee controlled everything that was done with regard to war appointments and war purchases. The organ of the prime minister at Halifax printed on its front page recently a picture of a man who was given the command of a battalion. This same man had left the country some time

(Continued on page five.)

Opposition Platform

The following platform was adopted at the Opposition Convention held in St. John recently:
In the event of the Opposition being returned to power, we pledge ourselves:—

NO PARTIZAN CONTROL OF CROWN LANDS.

1. We pledge ourselves to completely reorganize the Crown Lands Department, so that its administration shall be entirely severed from politics and administered on sound business principles under systematic plans by a non-partizan commission specially appointed for that purpose, responsible to the Legislature and working in co-operation with the Dominion Commission of Conservation.

TAKE THE HIGHWAYS OUT OF POLITICS.

2. We pledge ourselves to take the highways out of politics, giving the expenditure of the money collected from the people and the control of the labor, together with the Government appropriations, into the hands of supervisors, chosen by the people of each parish, to whom a detailed and audited account must be rendered every year at the annual meeting, and a duplicate thereof forwarded to the Department of Public Works, the work of the supervisors to be under the inspection of a competent provincial engineer.

We also pledge ourselves to set aside the money collected from the licenses upon automobiles and other motor vehicles, together with an equal appropriation from the revenues of the Province each year, to pay the interest upon the bonds to provide for permanent roads, which shall be constructed as rapidly as possible.

PROHIBITION PROVINCE WIDE.

3. We pledge ourselves at the first session of the Legislature to pass a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the Province to the fullest extent allowed by the Constitution, and within three months after the passage of said Act to submit the same by referendum to the electors of the Province, and should the majority of votes cast be in favor of the said law, then to bring the same into force by proclamation within one year thereafter.

ELECTION LAW.

4. (a) To amend the electoral law so as to make it impossible for members of the Legislature to traffic with the Government and still retain their seats.

(b) To make it possible for young men, when they reach the age of 21 years, to register their names and be placed forthwith upon the voters' lists, instead of waiting for the tedious machinery of revision as it now exists.

(c) To divide the counties into electoral districts which shall each be represented by one member.

(d) We will also consider amendments to the election law to make bribery in municipal as well as provincial elections impossible.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

5. To obtain at once a correct statement of the financial condition of the Province in order that the people may have definite knowledge of the vastly increased public debt and the enormous obligations of guaranteed bonds they will be called upon to pay; and to so reduce the cost of the administration of affairs and the number of useless officials as to avoid the necessity for direct taxation now confronting us.

AGRICULTURE.

6. To give the farmers all the practical assistance that the resources of the Province will permit, to improve agricultural methods and the quality and quantity of the stock upon the farm; to reduce the enormous salary list in the department, and to spend the educational grant received from the Federal Government without regard for political patronage.

VALLEY RAILWAY.

7. To complete the Valley Railway from a point on the Trans-continental Railway at or near Grand Falls, to St. John, and insist upon the Dominion Government carrying out the terms of the original legislation and allow the Province forty per cent. of the gross earnings thereof.

EDUCATION.

8. To always maintain and improve the educational service of the Province, and to co-operate with the Federal Government in carrying out the recommendations of the commission upon technical education.

IMMIGRATION.

9. The inauguration of a vigorous immigration policy to properly place before intending immigrants, whose number will be large after termination of the war, the advantages of the agricultural possibilities of New Brunswick.

Laughter in the court room, anxiety from Lewis as to said fishing.

"Yes," Selley admitted, "yes, it was good. I got a good mess."

"What is a good mess?" sternly. "Enough for breakfast and some left over."

"And you were 'keeping pretty shady'?"

Objections from the prosecution, objection overruled. Amidst the laughter of the court witness admitted he was keeping reasonably shady. And then the question asked itself—in a court of law, in the shadow of death, with the future dreaded and uncertain for the pale-faced woman just across the aisle, in the face of all this, what incongruity is this which allows a man to laugh? To laugh—in the sober moment afterwards it seems impossible.

TO REMOVE DANDRUFF

Get a 25-cent bottle of Danderine at any drug store, pour a little into your hand and rub well into the scalp with the finger tips. By morning most, if not all, of this awful scurf will have disappeared. Two or three applications will destroy every bit of dandruff; stop scalp itching and falling hair.

Even a chattering woman will give money away when it wants to talk.

There is one thing to be said of the American girl who marries a foreign nobleman, she isn't mercenary.

SEVENTEEN-INCH GUNS ARE NOT IMPOSSIBLE

London, Jan. 26.—Hon. A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, stated in the House of Commons today that the British government had no evidence that Germany possessed 17-inch guns, but that it was not impossible.

CONSERVATIVES HELD A CAUCUS AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—The first ministerial caucus of the session was held today under the presidency of David Henderson, of Halifax. It lasted from ten to nearly one o'clock. The Prime Minister afterwards stated that the discussion was general. It is understood that the shell contracts and the Carvell charges were not discussed.

MONTREAL HAS A CASE OF MURDER

Montreal, Jan. 26.—The coroner's jury which considered the case of Jeanne Dorion, aged 24 years, whose body was found under a third story balcony on St. Dominique street last night, gave their verdict this morning charging Philip Lacerte with murder. Lacerte and the woman had been living together for several months and were heard quarrelling just previous to the finding of the body.

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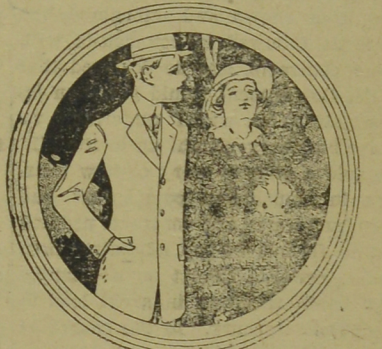
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Bits of Humor Enliven Tedium of Mohr Murder Case

Providence, Jan. 26.—A witness who liked to go fishing in a well-known lake.

Pistol shots in "two four" time or in time one-four—which was it?

Attorneys "het up" and squabbling like schoolboys.

And—the two Mrs. Browns—the right Mrs. Brown and the wrong—these were the features of another day of the Mohr trial, now in its second week.

First of all, the accumulation of the immaterial, the question which got nowhere, the reply which hesitated long in the coming and meant nothing when at length it did come. This day, for the most part, was a glorification of the detail of the American law court and the apotheosis of the commonplace.

A cold morning; jurors in fresh "boiled shirts"; lawyers keen to stretch the point to its uttermost. N. Anthony Walter, civil engineer, the first witness, much travail over a map. The map, by the way, was of the scene of the murder.

"How was the post situated?"

"How did you estimate the distance?"

"And the barbed wire—?"

So it went, ad infinitum, with the jury, probably, as much at sea as the spectator.

Then followed minor witness after minor witness, each merely corroborative, each full of his own importance and wary of the cross examiner. George B. Moody, a reporter for the Providence Tribune, confessed, after much backing and filling that he had written "a great many stories in his reporter's career."

Lawyer Lewis grew fussy about the proposition—"did the motor cycle start with a crack or by a crank?"

Sweat, agony, bloody tears on the part of the witness; at length an answer—"With a crank" won the day. And then enter Mesdames Brown.

"Call Mrs. Brown!" Attorney Phillips demanded of the court officer. After considerable waiting, Mrs. Brown appeared, purple hatted, red cheeked, puffing, Mrs. Brown of the avoirdupois, Mrs. Brown afraid and suspicious. Consternation on the part of the district attorney.

"No," said he, while the court room listened, "not this Mrs. Brown, but—the other."

Retreat the wrong Mrs. Brown. Wait, suspense, curiosity. Enter the right Mrs. Brown, the brown Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Ida Brown.

The witness felt all the hesitancy of her race and she showed that she felt it. She balked at the slightest question; she feared a trap in the simplest question, did this right Mrs. Brown, with the rare green beads and the white feathered hat.

"Who was at your house on the day after the shooting when Brown and Spellman were present?" from Attorney Lewis.

"I just wouldn't like to call names?" from the cautious Mrs. Brown. Diplomacy, cajoling, persuasion of the magnetic variety. Witness raised the veil. Attorney Lewis labored on.

"Well," witness at length confessed, to oblige a gentleman, "well, there were Mrs. Johnson, and our own minister's wife and—"

Well, it finally developed that Ethiopia was well represented on that afternoon of the cleaning of the motor-cycle.

And then came Mrs. Mary Gardner to corroborate other witnesses, to tell of what she had seen on the road the night of the shooting. And Mrs. Garner had set lips and an opinion of her own. No lawyer would bulldoze her. It was she who illustrated the manner of the shooting.

Clap, clap! She brought her hands together twice. Clap, clap, clap, clap—"shooting in two-four time," as one of the lawyers remarked, while Attorney Lewis objected—

"Your honor, how can I cross examine this witness on the clap of a hand?"

But the clap went on. Then from Attorney Lewis:

"How many times have you rehearsed this?"

"I have never rehearsed it with nobody."

"Not with District Attorney Phillips?"

"Yes, with him."

"He's somebody, isn't he?"

"I should hope so."

"I should hope so, too," from Lewis, while laughing court officers rapped to stop the laughing.

And then enters the fisherman, one Samuel Selley, whose weakness is posted lakes, whose favorite catch is pickerel. Yes, he would be very frank; yes, he must confess it was against the law to fish there.

"But," he continued volubly, "but, if I had asked the gentlemen of the Country Club I don't think they would have—"

"But you didn't ask?" from Lewis. Well, no, he just hasn't asked.

"Fishing good?"