

A Scathing Indictment Of the Borden Government

Full Text of Sir Sam Hughes' Letter of Resignation Addressed To the Premier---Glad to be Relieved of the Duties of His Office---Refers to Petty Intrigues and Ambitions About Him ---Says Premier Spent His Time Listening to Complaints of Disappointed and Overstrung People.

Ottawa, Nov. 15.—The following is the full text of the letter of Sir Sam Hughes to the Prime Minister, ending his resignation as Minister of Militia and Defence:

Ottawa, Nov. 11. Dear Sir Robert,—Your letter of Nov. 9 is at hand, and it affords me much satisfaction to now tender you my resignation; indeed, my letter of Nov. 1 rendered it impossible for me to remain your colleague unless you concurred in its correctness.

For a long time I have retained the portfolio of Militia only that I might the better help the soldiers in training and at the front to do the best I could toward winning the war, which is all that mattered. I have closed my eyes to the petty intrigues and ambitions about me. It is my intention to still devote my energies to the interests of those who have done so much to maintain the great cause of human liberty.

It is not necessary to analyze in detail all disappointing matters in my association with you. You state in the second paragraph of your letter of Nov. 9, "I have done my utmost to support you in the administration of your department."

This is pleasing news to me, but I learn it now for the first time.

Your statement that I had a "strong tendency to assume powers which you do not possess, and which can only be exercised by the Governor-in-Council" is also news to me. True, from the opening of Valcartier camp such things were done with your full knowledge and authority. Upon my representations to you that the formation of the force would be seriously delayed were every petty detail to be referred

to the Privy Council, you acquiesced in my recommendation that we should proceed without orders-in-council in matters of urgency, and that they should be passed afterwards.

This was done, and has never been deviated from. War cannot be successfully waged on the tactics of a law suit.

Your statement that my time and energies, "although urgently needed for much more important duties, have been very frequently employed in removing difficulties thus unnecessarily created" is also news to me. Why was I not informed of it?

IF YOU MEAN THAT YOUR TIME WAS GIVEN UP TO LISTENING TO THE COMPLAINTS OF DISAPPOINTED OR OVERSTRUNG PEOPLE, I CAN UNDERSTAND IT. In war time in all countries criticism of all measures abounds. In the eyes of some, everything done is "wrong." I, too, had more than my fair share of uninformed criticism, even from well-meaning friends.

Your statement further, that "You seemed actuated by a desire and even an intention to administer your department as if it were a distinct and separate government in itself" is also news to me. It is true that I did not always attend council to see my recommendations through; I was engaged in other work, but if you will permit me to make a comparison, I have yet to learn where, once the Finance Minister of Canada brought before council any proposed loan for the Dominion of Canada, or any single important act concerning the administration of his department. The same observations apply to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Moreover, it is difficult for me to recall where you have actively supported me in the passage of any order-in-council, concerning the upbuilding of the Militia, when opposed by two members of the cabinet usually antagonistic to anything proposed by me. As you are aware, it took up four months in the midst of this great war to fight through the principles of purchasing, for the second division, trucks at the lowest wholesale prices, instead of allowing large commissions to local agents who would have nothing whatever to do with securing the order.

Your next paragraph is that "On many occasions, but without much result, I have cautioned you against this course, which has frequently led to well founded protests from your colleagues."

You will pardon me, but I can recall but one instance, namely, secret service. I do remember you asking me on one occasion to submit orders-in-council, where possible, before incurring large expenditures, but the reason you assigned was not protests from my colleagues over my action, but that it was to set an example so as to assist you to control others. You instanced the post office department and the Public Works Department, where projects had been undertaken without authority by order-in-council, and I remember distinctly you stated that some boats had been purchased and other large expenditures incurred without your knowledge and without any order-in-council.

Your next instance is concerning the proposed sub-militia council in England. On Nov. 11 I wrote you in reply to your letter of October 31, giving a full statement.

SIR ROBERT, I HAVE KNOWN AND EXPERIENCED, FOR A LONG TIME, THE MEDDLING AND INTRIGUE WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON.

More than a year ago, I understand, you had it in contemplation to get Sir George Perley in control in England. I was assured in April last that the plans which you have now carried out were under contemplation. I was further assured, the first week of August of this year, that the plans were practically completed.

However, as you had not spoken to me about it as in honor bound, I did not credit the stories. True to your suggestion and to our understanding regarding the formation of the proposed sub-militia council, and wishing to make it as perfect as possible, I pursued the course outlined in my letter of November 1st. The organization had to be put into shape and tested out. That had not been completed when I left England. Therefore your position on this is untenable.

I had observed your every wish.

Further, you were notified and every one connected with the proposed sub-militia council was definitely notified, not once, but repeatedly, that the whole proposition was tentative and certainly would be changed as circumstances developed. This will be borne out by everyone associated with the proposed sub-militia council. I am free to admit, however, that the question of a separate Minister of Militia in England never once presented itself to my imagination. There is no more need for a separate minister for the forces in England than there is for those at Camp Borden, Camp Hughes or any other large camp in the country.

You state "I conveyed to you on the 31st July a clear intimation that upon so important a proposal involving considerations of the gravest moment, the cabinet must be consulted before action was taken. All the members of the government have full and direct responsibility in respect to the very important matters which the proposed council would advise upon and direct. The intimation which was given to you

(Continued on page three.)

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PROSPECTS of new wealth in boundless quantities, through the application of science to industry, were unfolded the other day by Arthur D. Little, of Boston, in an address at the Royal Alexandra, at Winnipeg, after a luncheon given in his honor by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Mr. Little represents the firm of Arthur D. Little, Inc., of Boston, an organization of chemists and engineers, whose specialty is industrial research.

At the invitation of Lord Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific, the firm established a branch in Montreal, and Mr. Little has undertaken to survey the resources of Canada. His address yesterday was partly the result of a tour through Canada, which he had made in company with George Bury, Vice-President of the C. P. R.

W. M. Ingram, president of the Manufacturers' Association, introduced the speaker.

Mr. Little explained that he was born in Boston, and therefore belonged to those who do not have to be born again. He was therefore surprised to find himself, after a brief acquaintance with Canada, undergoing an unexpected process of rebirth. He had found himself in a new and ampler world, in which one breathed a more stimulating atmosphere and learned to think in continental terms. It was a world in which present achievement, wonderful though it was, derived its chief significance from its promise of the future. He had seen the black soil of the prairies turning green with the young wheat, great stretches of forest, lakes like inland seas, mountains rich in minerals and of commanding beauty, noble rivers and cities so clean, orderly and metropolitan that the traveller's admiration was blended with envy. It had been his good fortune to come to Western Canada with George Bury, Vice-President and General Manager of the C. P. R. Mr. Bury's knowledge of conditions and potentialities throughout the country was so full that to travel with him was to receive a liberal education.

Natural resources, proceeded Mr. Little, did not of themselves create great industries. Such industries resulted from personal initiative. Opportunity implied responsibility, and it was upon the heirs of this rich inheritance that the responsibility for a wise initiative was placed. The first requisite for a wise initiative was a compelling desire to do something with the opportunities at hand, and the second was knowledge. Science was only knowledge at its best; it was not something occult, to be followed for its own sake, but was intensely practical. The war had taught English-speaking people that science was the basis of prosperity and power, and that without science there could be no liberty and no national existence.

Mr. Little defined industrial research as research having for its immediate and avowed purpose some practical end. No greater service could be performed than that of inculcating into the public mind a proper appreciation of what research could do. For forty years the spirit of research had pervaded the entire social structure of Germany, with the result that Germany although not possessed of great natural resources, had before the war been rapidly making a peaceful conquest of the world. In the United States the handwriting on the wall was being read, and already several large corporations found it profitable to maintain great research laboratories. At least a dozen corporations spent \$100,000 or more in such laboratories, and one company employed 650 chemists.

There was also, declared Mr. Little, an insistent demand throughout the British Empire for the mobilization, co-ordination and extension of research facilities. Lord Shaughnessy had acted by calling the organization represented by the speaker, Arthur D. Little, Inc., of Boston, to Canada, for the survey of the natural resources of the Dominion and the promotion of industrial research. He and his associates felt that, in so doing, Lord Shaughnessy had honored them so signally that they would be dishonored if they failed to make the most of the opportunity placed in their hands. They were not in Canada in the exclusive interest of any corporation, but to serve all clients whose interests were in line with those of the Dominion. Their work had scarcely begun. Ultimately they hoped to have the known resources of the Dominion indexed, so that the main facts about them would be instantly available. They expected to assist in securing new facts, and were assured of the cordial co-operation of the Federal Government and the universities. They would strive to introduce industries along new and non-competitive lines and, if permitted, to improve the practice of many existing industries. Some progress could be reported already, although they had only been in Canada a few weeks.

Mr. Little then mentioned a few of the lines in which applied science would help in the production of Canadian wealth. Sometimes as much as 20,000,000 acres were sown to flax in Canada for the grain only. It was not profitable, in view of the labor situation, to grow flax for the fibre in order to make linen. But mountains of flax straw resulted from the growing of flax for the seed, because when grown for that purpose it was sown much more sparsely than when grown for fibre, and its habit of growth was changed. Hundreds of thousands of tons of the best paper stock in the world could be obtained from this straw. And in the United States the Government

was circularizing housewives not to destroy old paper and rags, from which new paper could be made. It had not been an easy matter to separate the fibre required for paper from the broken straw. A great many people had tried it without success. His own company had carried out some experiments in its experimental paper mill at Boston, and had succeeded so well that the United States Government was taking the paper they produced. Samples of it were shown by the speaker. Such paper was worth 6 cents in any market, he said, and probably 8 cents. A mill established to manufacture it could afford to pay the farmers \$3 a ton for flax straw delivered.

Another question they were investigating was the possibility of providing gasoline from natural gas. A new process for effecting this end had been developed in Oklahoma. It was of peculiar promise, and his company had taken out a license to use it in Canada. If some of the gasoline thus obtained contained too much sulphur, probably it could eventually be eliminated by an adaptation of the French process, which had proved so successful in taking sulphur out of oil. By this method, copper was put into the oil, and the sulphur attacked the copper, leaving the oil pure. There was much lignite in Canada. This was a good gas producer, and a new type of machine, a rotary, which worked well with lignite, had recently been made available.

Another possibility for Canada, said the speaker, was the production of dry milk. Several processes for doing this had been invented. Sterilized it kept good for a long time, and for certain purposes, including those of bakers and confectioners, was better than ordinary milk. It could be restored to the condition of ordinary milk by the addition of water. He was convinced that it would become a staple article on the kitchen shelf. Its great merit was that, in shipping, seven-eighths of the freight on ordinary milk was saved and dairies could profitably be established at points remote from markets. About \$15,000 worth of dried milk entered London daily from Scandinavia, and quantities were going into New York. Properly handled, the dried milk industry could become in Canada more important than the cheese industry.

Another thing about milk, said Mr. Little, was the fact that thousands of gallons of skim milk were daily fed to hogs. Casein, worth 30 cents a pound, could be easily extracted from skim milk. One of the most promising fields for industrial research was that afforded by the enormous quantity of straw, for which Canadians had no present use. Some things could be done with straw already; straw boards and corrugated board could be made. A straw lumber, suitable for cheap out-houses and partitions, could be made at a cost of not more than \$5 or \$6 a ton. He believed something might be done with it in the rotary gas producer. The distillation products of straw were worth looking into, also the possibility of converting it into fuel for use on the farm. Grain alcohol had been made from straw, although the commercial value of this process was not yet assured.

Few nations were so bounteously endowed with potential wealth as Canada. There was merchantable timber in such profusion that a single island on the Pacific coast boasted the greatest amount of such timber in proportion to its acreage in the world. There was coal in all varieties, from lignite to anthracite; oil and natural gas; the finest fisheries known; minerals beyond present calculation; vast areas of fertile soil. What could not be done with them, with the aid of industrial research?

Speaking of the lumber industry, Mr. Little said, the Canadian lumbering practice was not better than the best in the United States. In the States, two-thirds of a tree felled in the yellow pine belt was wasted as litter in the field or burned as mill waste. Three dollars a thousand was a good profit on lumber. For 15,000,000,000 feet board measure which found its way to market, 30 billion feet were wasted. This was not industry; it was crime.

A few months ago there had been 2,500,000 automobiles in the United States, and they were increasing at the rate of 4,000 a day. These machines represented 60,000,000 horse-power in gasoline engines. That was more than the potential horse-power of the United States water power. Auto manufacturers were bringing in an additional 100,000 horse-power a day. The unprecedented increase in the demand for gasoline thus caused was responsible for the high price of that commodity, and soon there would not be enough gasoline line to go round. Alcohol was the only feasible substitute, and grain alcohol—not wood alcohol—could be produced from wood waste. A plant for doing this had been started in Louisiana.

The speaker concluded by indicating the industrial possibilities of electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical processes. As showing what they had already succeeded in doing, he said that ten years ago 22 per cent. of steel rails manufactured were rejected for faults. Whereas out of ten thousand tons of rails made in the electric furnace in three years there were no failures. Exceedingly interesting experiments were also being made in producing synthetic materials by the use of the ultra-violet rays. Great results were likely to come from this line of research.

Industrial research was applied to idealism. It expected rebuffs. It learned from every stumble, and turned a stumbling-block into a stepping-stone. It trusted the scientific imagination, knowing it to be simply logic in flight.

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