

Government Not as Keen on Soldier Vote as It Once was

Sir Sam Hughes Responsible for Recent Unpleasantness at Camp Borden---Gadsby Likens the Place to the Great Desert of Sahara---The Camp Described as the Second Costly Mistake of Canada's War Lord.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Aug. 5.—As time goes by the protest against Camp Borden increases. Camp Borden is an area of twenty thousand acres, what is technically known as "pine barrens." It was cut over some sixty years ago, and the bush the contractor had to clear away was second growth stuff.

When the cost of the buildings, the sewerage, water tanks, railways and electric light lines is added up, the bill will amount well into the millions, which is just that much money squandered.

Most of the farmers up there could not raise much on that sand except murmurs, but that crop was plentiful enough. They were glad enough to let go when somebody offered to buy them out.

Lots of Dust.

One thing Camp Borden excels in is dust, dust aggravated by the ashes of burnt stumps, in some places two feet deep. Of course man is dust, and to dust returns, but he doesn't like the blamed stuff to rise up and choke him before his time comes.

Camp Borden has its dust storms, as Sahara has its sand storms, and you can believe me that when it comes to siroccos, simoons and things like that, Sahara has nothing on Camp Borden. Add to dust and sand and ashes a temperature of 96 in the shade and you get a fair idea of Camp Borden in the dog days. Add to that again thick khaki shirts and trousers, close-wound puttees and heavy shoes, and you get a fair idea of how the soldier is equipped to stand up to it. Add to all this ceremonial parades in the noon-day sun for the visiting War Lord, and you cease to wonder at the complaints.

Shave it and groom it as they will, Camp Borden is still a desert of the first magnitude.

A Costly Mistake.

The opinion grows even among his friends that Camp Borden is Sam's mistake, a costly mistake at that, and what's more, his second mistake of the same character—Valcartier Camp being his first—and the best one of the two.

Brigadier General Logie complains that he has been sitting on a volcano ever since he went there. No doubt it feels like it in more ways than one.

Perhaps the most fervid thing about Camp Borden is the language of the soldiers. The riots are over, but desertions are still of daily occurrence. The camp officers are unable to do anything in the face of this militant opinion, and such deserters as come back necessarily meet with no punishment save a dockage of pay during their absence.

Thus Sir Sam's vainglory in hurrying thirty thousand soldiers into a half finished camp has the net result of subverting discipline all round. Concessions are made in the way of weekend leaves, rest days, tent floors and so on, which must weaken the authority of the camp commandant. These are some of the measures taken to cover up Sam's mistake.

The Soldier Vote.

The Government is not as keen on the soldier vote as it once was, and with good reason. Word comes from the front that Sir Sam is no hero there and public opinion fairly surges from Camp Borden that he is a gone goose there. The opinion of the rank and file at Camp Borden penetrated even the

devil-may-care pose of Sir Sam. The soldiers made no bones of letting him know what they thought. Some of the things they think are not fit to print, others take form in a very ugly word which has to do with his choice of greasy friends like Colonel John Wesley Allison.

Sir Sam is said to be visiting United States military camps incog, just now, but if he really wants to see himself as others see him, let him disguise himself and circulate among the lines at Camp Borden. He won't find them alluding to him there as a hero, a knight or a major general.

Yes, Camp Borden is a sad mistake for Sir Sam—it puts the finishing touch on his downfall. It explodes his prospective value as a khaki vote-getter at the next general election, and enables his colleagues to edge him out.

The Bootlegger There.

Moreover Camp Borden is a great mistake as a concentration camp, because it does not effect the purpose for which it was intended. The theory was that it took the soldier away from big city distractions, hermitized him and made him get down to real soldiering. The fact is that the worst of the big city distractions follow the camp, that the strange woman prowls on the outskirts, and that the bootlegger finds easy access when a twenty-four mile circumference has to be guarded.

As a means of keeping the soldiers unspotted from the world, Camp Borden is a failure.

What purpose will it serve after the war is another question. Canada has no intention of maintaining the militia on a war footing. The army will soon slip back to peace figures, fifty or sixty thousand for ten summer days, and

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COACHMAN IS WORTH \$100,000

But He Still Drives the Horses as Usual.

Chicago, Aug. 4.—Although William Beattie, coachman for the late James Hobart Moore, multi-millionaire, is said to possess property valued at more than \$100,000, is today performing the service which has been his custom for nearly 25 years.

Beattie had been in the employ of Moore for some years when, as a result of his Diamond Match operations the multi-millionaire had been stripped of his wealth overnight.

"I was in an awful fix," Mr. Moore used to say. "I was worth less than nothing when Beattie came to me. He had been to the bank and drawn out every cent he had saved—\$2,000.

"Take it," he said, "I got it from you and you're welcome to keep it as long as you want it."

Mr. Moore accepted the sum to tide him over some minor transactions, which brought him large profits and re-established his credit. Then came the organization of the companies which brought great wealth to the Moores.

Moore never forgot the service of Beattie. He paid him back the \$2,000 many times over, and placed Beattie in the way of investments that netted him more than \$100,000.

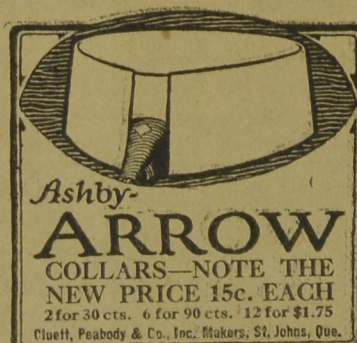
"Anyone who worked for Mr. Moore would have done what I did," said Beattie after the funeral of his employer at Lake Geneva.

If a man ever wishes he had been born a woman it is when he observes the foolish acts of other men.

trouble to get them at that. What becomes of Camp Borden then? This huge war plant will lie idle.

It will not be the policy of either political party to breed a strutting military spirit which shoves civilians off the sidewalks. We will all get back to our knitting as quickly as may be and camps like Borden and Valcartier will be given over to thistles and wild mustard. Their object will be better and more economically served by rifle ranges in convenient neighborhood to the various battalion centres.

Meanwhile, Sam's mistake must be covered up. And how are they going to do it? By sending Camp Borden kickers overseas, ten units at a time, half trained or not. To put it plainly, what the Government says to the soldiers is "If you can't live at Camp Borden you can go over and die in Flanders."



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