

Sir Sam Makes the Borden Government Feel Nervous

Nineteen Separate and Distinct Charges in His Famous Letter to the Premier---Did Borden Give Sealed Orders to Slow up Recruiting---Government Advertises for Men for Munition Plants Where There Are no Jobs.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—When Sir Sam was told that Macdonald, of Picton, had found nineteen separate and distinct charges in his famous correspondence with Premier Borden, Sir Sam was surprised—at his own moderation.

There are plenty more where those came from. Sam knows the inside of things. The question is will he tell? The government is visibly uneasy under Sam's glittering eye—fidgets in his seat, fiddles with its watch chain, bites its finger nails.

There are mysteries in the air every where. For instance, what does National Registration mean? Is the government anxious to get any more recruits after its good friends like Lord Shaughnessy and the Canadian manufacturers have told it that Canadian industries were being dislocated? Is the government saying one thing and doing another? Is it talking under its breath of conscription, hinting at it, snarling darkly about drastic measures and seeking to get the credit of it, and all the while warning the responsible authorities to go slow?

Does the government whisper conscription in communities where that idea may be popular, and whisper something else in other communities where the people do not think that way?

Borden's Big Bid.

After Premier Borden had made his celebrated bid for the last hundred thousand, thus bringing the limit up to 500,000—did he give secret orders to slow up recruiting? And along the same lines, why does the Imperial Munition Board keep advertising for workers for whom there are no jobs? Sir Sam could throw a lot of light on these matters and it is only natural for the government to feel nervous at the prospect of his spilling the beans.

Moreover, Sir Sam knows all about the intrigues that are going on in the cabinet. He has mentioned the word intrigue in his letter and there is always the danger that he may follow it up with plainer statements. The theory of the Opposition is that the Cabinet ever since the beginning of the war has been a battlefield for three groups of contenders. The Rogers group and the Hughes group have had their day—there is now an armistice between their leaders, and the White group is on top at present. There was a dark saying of Sir Sam's that Sir Thomas White was conspiring with Premier Borden rather than against him. Does this mean that Premier Borden, with a view to finding an honorable way out of a job that has become tiresome to him, favors a reconstructed government in which Sir T. White would be Premier, and not J. W. Flavelle, his first lieutenant—or the other way about?

Profit for Somebody.

Another mystery of the first importance is who was allowed to make the money underwriting the various loans which Sir Thomas has floated during the last three years. This underwriting, considering the price the bonds were sold at, has been very profitable to somebody. Who were the gentlemen that reached up to the grapevine and grabbed off ten million dollars? Sir Sam may have a shrewd suspicion. Will he put that question in words? And if he does put it in words, will he back it up with facts?

The probability is that Sir Sam will not waste good ammunition by firing it off too long before a general election. The events of this war are so tremendous that a scandal has to be smoking hot to keep its interest for the public.

Pap to be Stopped.

Indeed, as much seems to hinge on when Sir Sam is going to say it as what he is going to say when he does say it. If Sir Sam intends saying it now, then a pale and uneasy government would feel like bringing down

its extension proposal right away, risking a refusal, cutting out the adjournment and Premier Borden's visit to England, and going to the country immediately, if not sooner. If, on the other hand, Sir Sam's disclosures will keep until after the adjournment, then the Government will probably take the limit before a general election, because there are several months to go yet and a great deal of patronage to dispense, with a million dollars a day to spend.

It is on these extraordinary military expenditures that the government depends to sweeten opinion in the constituencies, the usual pap from public works and railways being stopped, and naturally they will keep spending as long as possible.

Meanwhile the debate on the address ambles along with an occasional spurt, as for example when Macdonald of Picton delivered one of his stinging speeches. Replying to Premier Borden's taunts about bloody keys and like matters, the member for Picton reminded Sir Robert that his Minister of Elections had had the bloody key in the lock and the door almost open on two occasions, but the government got locomotor ataxia and nearly trembled itself to death. As for war time elections, there have been five since the war started, and the Conservative government of British Columbia went so far as to take the votes of the soldiers at the front, with disastrous results to itself. No doubt Premier Borden's fate aggravates Premier Borden's horror.

Sir Sam's Dismissal.

Macdonald made a palpable hit when he asked Premier Borden why he dismissed Sir Sam for doing things of his own bat without the formality of orders-in-council, and kept on the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Railways who were guilty of the same offence. Needless to state, the Premier did not answer, choosing to regard it as a rhetorical question of Macdonald's. The government has a habit of smiling wanly when Mr. Macdonald starts quizzing. That's about the only reply they are able to make.

Another matter touched by the member for Picton was Sir Sam's struggle to maintain Canadian control of Canadian troops while in England, and the hostility of Sir George Perley and other peerage hunters in Premier Borden's cabinet to this course.

Sir Sam himself says that when the Premier let him out he had got things so far advanced that the British War Office—with reluctance, it is true—was appointing Canadians as divisional commanders, but now that Sir Geo. Perley has it in hand we may expect to lose the ground gained.

Sir Sam apprehends that Perley will assent to everything—the high rank and the decorations for the British officers, and what's left for the Canadians, who are paying the bills.

National Service Bluff.

If anything lacked to puncture the Government's National Service bluff it was supplied by Frank Oliver, who analyzed its pretensions in a way that added to his reputation as a clear thinker. Mr. Oliver took the ground that National Service meant primarily compulsory military service—as it does in England and other war-administered countries right now—and after that compulsory industrial service.

National Service in Canada, however, means neither one thing nor the other—it's a mere muttering on the part of the government, which leads to nowhere.

Incidentally Mr. Oliver knocked the stuffing out of Premier Borden's enlistment figures, which include the 65,000 units who never reached the firing line, several thousand non-combatants and several more thousands of allied reservists with whose enlistment under their respective colors Canada had nothing whatever to do.

One way and another, we are still 170,000 short of Premier Borden's boast that Canada would supply 500,000 fighting men.

IRON CROSS FOR VON BERNSTORFF

London, Feb. 6.—Count Von Bernstorff, dismissed German ambassador to the United States, has been granted the iron cross with white ribbon, by the German Emperor, according to an Amsterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co., quoting a report from German headquarters.

The decoration is one conferred on civilians for services rendered in time of war.

Nothing precludes prohibition as eloquently as a pneumonia epidemic.

GRAFT REVELATIONS A DISGRACE TO PROVINCE

Commenting on the report of the Royal Commission which investigated the Dugal charges, the Quebec Chronicle, a leading Conservative paper, said:

"The terrible revelations of official graft in New Brunswick are a disgrace not only to that Province, but to all Canada. They almost completely destroy public confidence in the honesty of our public men, and unquestionably inspire grave doubts as to the possibility of ever securing anything like an upright administration of public affairs under our present system. Yet no administration ever came into office with more pious professions of high virtue and devotion to the public weal than did the Flemming government of New Brunswick. On the strength of these it literally swept the Province at the last general election in 1912, only two members being returned to support the Opposition.

LOOT WAS THEIR OBJECT.

"There is no longer the shadow of a doubt that loot was the object for which the men now in charge of the government of the Sister Province down by the sea sought office. Their conduct of public affairs was dishonest from the start, and today, under their manipulation, no province in Canada has been so betrayed, so shamed and so degraded as New Brunswick by these same men, who have played in the most heartless manner upon the good faith, the loyalty and the patriotism of their people in order that they might scatter the contents of the treasury among themselves and their heelers."

We have the looters still in power. Turn them out!

THE QUESTION OF INTEREST.

For the fiscal year 1907, the last year of the old government, the amount paid for interest, as shown by the Auditor General's report, was \$178,569.70.

In the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1916, the interest charge, according to the Auditor General's statement, was \$351,004.99.

Increase in nine years under the present government, \$172,435.29, an average of \$19,159.47 per year, or at the rate of \$58 per day.

What do the electors think of this record for a government which went into power solemnly pledged to give the country an economical administration of affairs?

Turn the rascals out!

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If a girl says "No" three times in succession it's a hopeless case—unless she should change her mind.

When a man takes a tumble down the ladder of life he always blames it either on some woman above him who "threw him down," or on some woman below who "lured him down."

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