

SIR SAM HUGHES ATTACKS FINANCE MINISTER WHITE

Declared That the Only Mistakes Which Had Occurred in Militia Dept. Were the Result of White's Meddling--Sir Sam Still a Tory But Thinks the Party Needs a Broader Platform.

Ottawa, Jan. 30.—It was a tempered vindication of himself and a tempered attack on his former colleagues of the Borden government which Sir Sam Hughes made to a crowded and expectant House this afternoon. The expected fireworks failed to materialize and to this extent the crowded galleries were disappointed. From the political standpoint, however, the members of the House, who read between the lines, realized the deeper significance underlying Sir Sam's two hour speech and the reply of Sir Thomas White which followed.

Sir Sam read himself back into the Tory party, but declared impliedly at least that it must have new and more vigorous leadership. The only member of the government he really attacked was Sir Thomas White. He left Sir Robert Borden and his other colleagues severely alone and he did not even allude to his precipitate dismissal from the cabinet by Sir Robert.

The major portion of Sir Sam's speech was devoted to a history of his own attitude towards the prosecution of the war. British connection and his plans for speeding up recruiting, and more vigorous action all around. He declared that he had no intention of leaving the Tory party and joining his fortunes with Sir Wilfrid and the Grits. Consequently he said nothing that might be harmful to the party itself, but he did say things deprecatory of its present leadership.

"Back the Tory government and party, yes. I will gladly back a Tory government and the Tory party; but the platform must be broader than 'Keep Laurier and the Grits out,' and action must be something different from epileptic utterances and theories re labor wanted at home."

That was one of his declarations.

Pressure Has Told.

It had, of course, been expected that Sir Sam would live up to his previous promises that he would substantiate every charge which he had made against the government in his letter of

resignation and the correspondence leading up to it. But the pressure of the past few days evidently resulted in a decision to tread lightly on anything that might really hurt the party as a whole.

He referred practically to only one of the charges which he had made in his letter to Sir Robert Borden, namely, with regard to the delays in the purchase of motor trucks and other supplies urgently needed at the front which had existed for four months in the early stages of the war through cabinet bickerings and haggings. In this connection he read a letter he had written to the Prime Minister on May 15, 1915, declaring that the troops had been greatly hampered by these delays and squabbles, the cost of supplies had been greatly enhanced, and the goods supplied had in many cases been inferior. He charged in effect that contracts had been let to middlemen, that extravagant methods had been pursued and that his repeated protests had all been in vain.

By inference this was an attack upon the leadership and firmness of Sir R. Borden, but Sir Sam very carefully kept off the Premier's toes throughout. There has evidently been a rapprochement between Sir Sam and Sir Robert, for after the 6 o'clock adjournment the two of them strolled down the corridor together, evidently on good terms with each other again.

Sir Sam only showed his fighting spirit in his attack upon Sir Thomas White. He insinuated that the only mistakes which had occurred in the conduct of the Militia Department while he was in charge had been in connection with the purchase of motor trucks and bicycles through T. A. Russell, the man whom Sir Thomas White had recommended to him.

As soon as Sir Sam had finished, Sir Thomas took up the cudgels. He declared that he had never intrigued against Sir Sam, but had always given him loyal support. Then he proceeded somewhat to the amazement of the House to read a long series of letters which he had addressed to the Prime Minister during 1914, 1915, 1916, protesting against irregularities in expenditure, unnecessary purchases and the lack of proper safeguards.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley, who concluded the debate, pointed the moral of Sir Sam's failure to refer specifically to the real reason for his exit from the government, of the added charge of his letter of May 13, 1915, and of Sir Thomas White's unctuous reading of his own protests to Sir Robert Borden. His was a powerful speech, with a biting reference to the Nationalist influence and its effect on his own constituency of St. John, where he said "the shipyards were as dead as this government will soon be."

The address in reply to the speech from the throne was passed.

HAD A TALK WITH KITCHENER.

When Charles M. Schwab Got Down to Business Language.

(Philadelphia Ledger.)

An associate of Charles M. Schwab remarked to me the other day that the steel man's very best story deals with his interview with Lord Kitchener soon after the war began.

Mr. Schwab was in London to get orders for Bethlehem. There are things, however, which do hedge about a lord that are difficult for an American manufacturer to negotiate.

For a long time it was hard sledding, as they say up in Lehigh county, and the ice seemed a yard thick in the British War Office. Finally, after Mr. Schwab had stumbled half a dozen times over the "my lord," General Kitchener smiled and said:

"Suppose you sit down and tell me briefly, as an American business man, just what you can do."

As evidence that the King of Bethlehem was up to that task is the fact that he brought away in his inside pocket orders for supplies worth \$128,000,000.

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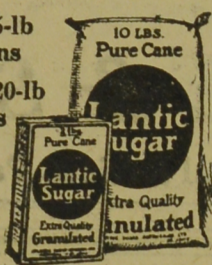


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BORDEN GOVERNMENT WILL LIKELY GO THE LIMIT

(Continued from page 2.)

since the national government with Sir Thomas as the nation, blew up.

This does not mean, however, that Sir Thomas takes second place. Not at all. Sir Thomas sees to that. On opening day Premier Borden arose as usual and delivered the obituary tributes to the members of parliament who had died during the recess.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier seconded in tasteful panegyric. According to custom, the ceremony should have ended there, but Parliament was much surprised when Sir Thomas rose and rendered an additional tribute to his late desk mate, Postmaster General Casgrain. He may have been sincere, no doubt he was—but it looked like crowding the mourners.

R. B. Bennett hit it off about right when he asked Sir Thomas in the corridor, "And whom did you speak for? The 'National' government, I suppose."

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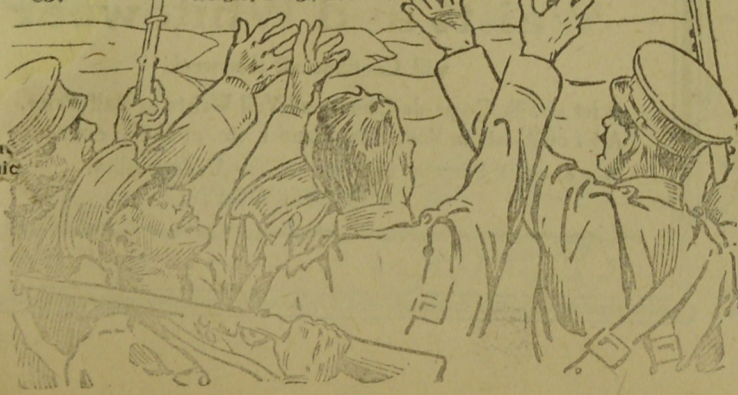
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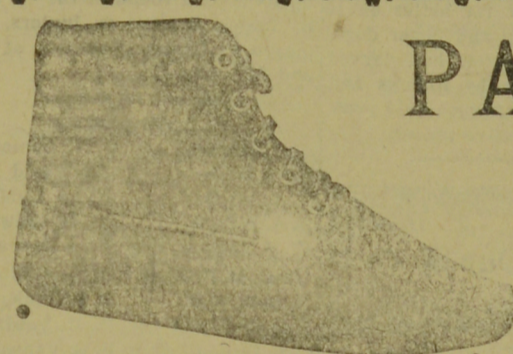
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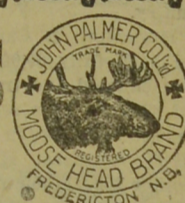
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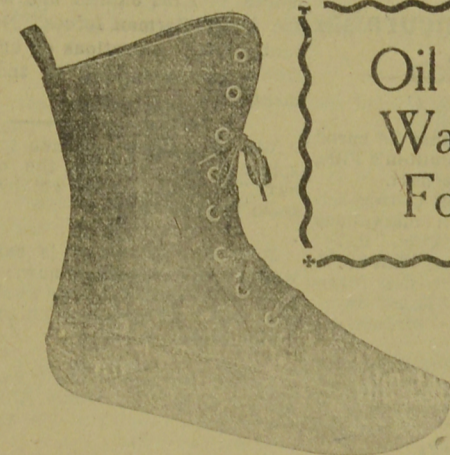
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