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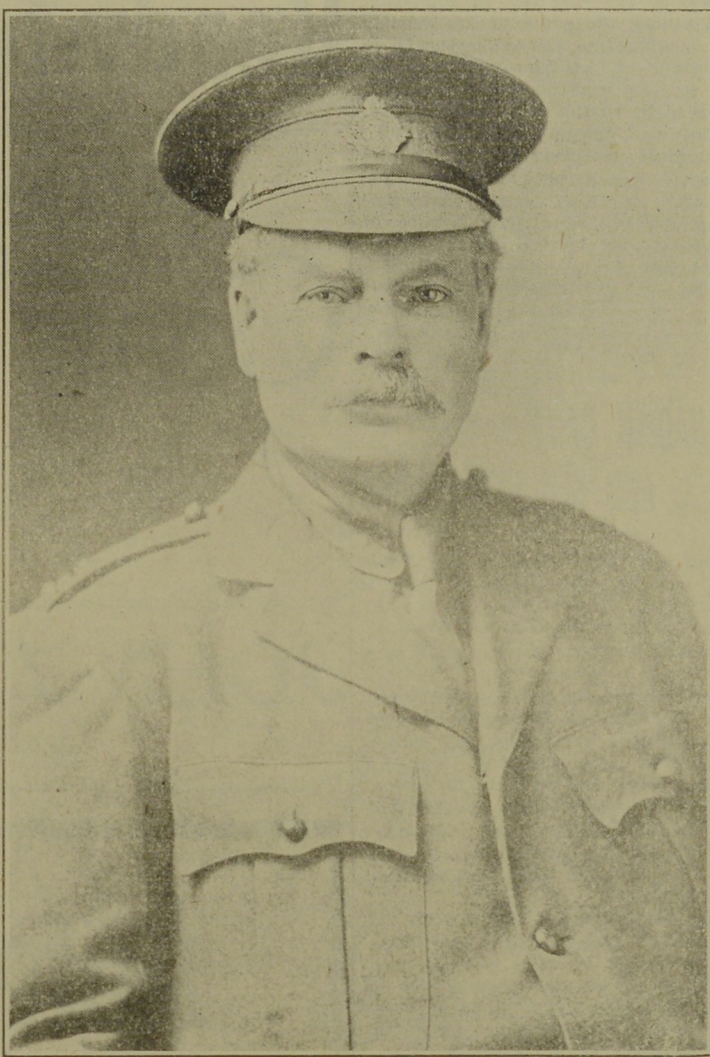
San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 3.—Mr. Hugh Gregg, an operator for the British government at the Fanning Island cable station in the mid-Pacific, dived at the risk of his life into the shark-infested water and recovered the lost end of the cable soon after the German cruiser Nürnberg completed its work of destroying the station, according to Mr. R. M. Fitt, manager for British

interests on the island, who is here today. "After cutting the cable," Fitt said, "the Nürnberg towed the sea cable off shore and dropped it in deep water. Gregg devised a glass bottom boat and after cruising around for several days located the lost end in forty feet of water frequented by sharks. Gregg dived repeatedly until he succeeded in attaching a line to it."

"ROUGH ON RATS"

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LIEUT. COL. MERSEREAU TO COMMAND 132nd BATTALION



LIEUT. COL. G. W. MERSEREAU.

Lieut. Col. W. Mersereau, officer commanding the 132nd Battalion, now being recruited on the North Shore, has been prominent in military and educational work for over thirty years. He is a native of the Parish of Blissfield, Northumberland county, and has resided there nearly all his life. He graduated from the U.N.B. in 1876 and followed teaching successfully until his appointment as school inspector about thirty years ago. He was long connected with the 73rd Northumberland Regiment, and on completing his tenure of command a few years ago was appointed to the reserve of officers. He was appointed brigadier of the 16th Brigade a short time ago.

Col. Mersereau has three sons and all are serving in khaki. His eldest son, Captain Fred Mersereau, formerly of the Mounted Police, went to England with the 12th Battalion, but upon his corps being made a reserve battalion he pitched his job and returned home. He now has an appointment with the 132nd Battalion. The second son, Major C. Jack Mer-

sereau, who has always taken a keen interest in military matters, was in command of a corps of guides when the war broke out. He at once offered his services and was accepted and received the appointment of brigade major with the first contingent. He was severely wounded while fighting in Flanders and is now recuperating at his old home in Doaktown and will report for duty in London in February. Another son, Captain Harry C. Mersereau, a clever young doctor of Montreal, went to England in command of an ambulance corps and is now with a reserve detachment.

Lieut. Col. H. F. McLeod, M.P., who is in command of a reserve battalion at Shorncliffe, is a son-in-law of Lieut. Col. Mersereau. His other son-in-law, Mr. William J. Scott of this city, offered his services to Col. Mersereau, but the latter, feeling that one male member of the family should remain at home, did not accept the offer. Both Mrs. McLeod and Mrs. Scott have addressed recruiting meetings and have been active in Red Cross work.

BORDEN GOVERNMENT WAS BORN TO TROUBLE

(Continued from page two.)
ERS GO FURTHER AND SPEAK OF HIS LACK OF BACKBONE IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN DEEMED RANK TREASON A YEAR AGO. It is worth noting that these doubts among Sir Robert's supporters trod, as it were, on the heels of Mr. D. A. Thomas, who came to this country as Lloyd George's special commissioner and speedily found the Shell Committee a scandal and a shame.

Mr. Thomas not only found the composition of the Shell Committee a grave scandal, BUT HE TOLD PREMIER BORDEN SO, ADDING THAT THE PRICE ASKED FOR SHELLS WAS AS SCANDALOUS AS THE FACT THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS LARGELY OCCUPIED IN HANDING OUT CONTRACTS TO ITS OWN MEMBERS. HE RECOMMENDED THAT FOR THE GOOD OF THE EMPIRE AND THE CREDIT OF CANADA, THE SHELL COMMITTEE BE DISMISSED OR RADICALLY REORGANIZED. He is also said to have wrenched a promise from Premier Borden that this would be done immediately. When, day after day and week after week followed and it was not done, for the simple reason that the committee positively refused to resign and Premier Borden didn't have the heart to kick them out—when, in short, the committee defied the premier and stuck to its highly profitable job like a limpet to a rock, Commissioner Thomas had to take the matter into his own hands and pressure was brought to bear from the British government, which finally resulted in the purged Shell Committee as we see it today.

A SPINELESS LEADER.

It was after this experience with Premier Borden that Commissioner Thomas gave out the opinion that Sir Robert WAS AS SPINELESS A MAN AS HE HAD EVER SEEN IN PUBLIC LIFE. And it was following Mr. Thomas' cue that Sir Robert's critics in his own party took up the cry and are now suggesting stronger leaders of whom there happens to be such a plentiful scarcity that Major General Sir Sam Hughes is mentioned as the next best bet. Will they make a khaki idol of him, the man on horseback, the hero of the thronging streets, taking the salute wherever a bright eye sparkles—will they set him up as a little tin god or will they give him the dump? That is the question.

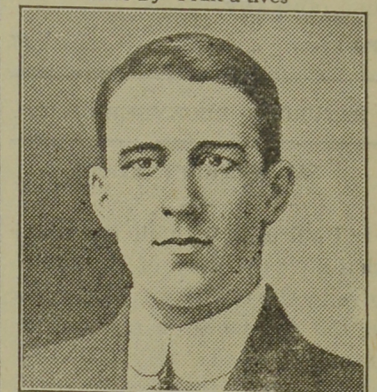
Sam is not wholly loved by his party. What's more, he is taken at his face value and it is just a question whether the public mightn't see through him, too. In fact, there are so many risks in pulling off a khaki election with Sam as the central figure that the party has about decided that it doesn't want an election at all. It is also worth remembering that Major General Sam was the chief appointer of the Shell Committee of which Commissioner Thomas so cordially disapproved and naturally that would not help him with the voters. On the whole, if Premier Borden is weighed in the balance and found wanting, so is Sir Sam. It's horse and horse, so to speak.

MORE NEW TAXES.

Of course, after the war is over, the

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government will have to do a lot of taxing and taxing is not popular with the masses, and it may have to provide sustenance for a transcontinental railway or two which will mean hard scratching but these matters are not as disquieting at present as the personal troubles of the various cabinet ministers. For example, what are they going to do with Bob? It has become plain to everybody that Bob Rogers can no longer carry Manitoba. For that matter, he can't even carry his own constituency of Winnipeg.

What to do with the Machiavelli of the administration? His strength has become weakness but he knows too much to be dropped readily. The plan is to take the high commissionership in London away from Sir George Perley, who has made a poor fist of it, and give it to Bob, who will naturally work it for all it is worth. This may satisfy Bob but will it not put Sir George's nose out of joint?

All of which is to say that the government is in a state of perspiring hesitancy and that a general election is the last thing it wants to put an end to it.

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