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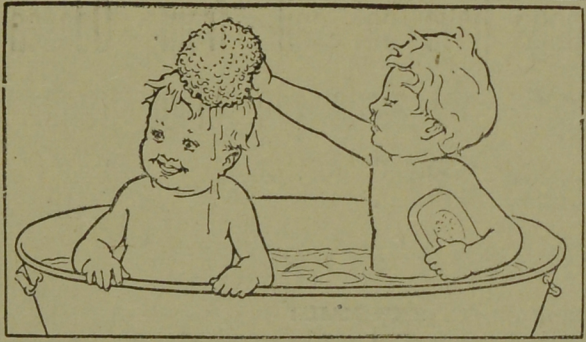
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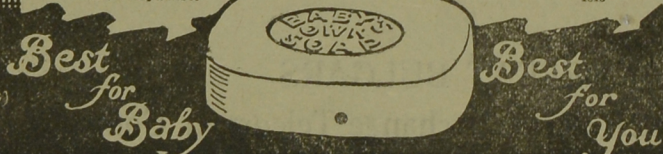
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SIR SAM WAS SECOND BEST IN SCRAP WITH MR. THOMAS

His First Regret to Report Experience Since the War Began--
The Welshman Insisted on Having Things Done
the War Office Way and Won Out.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Oct. 30—Major General Sir Sam Hughes has had his first regret-to-report experience since the war began. In a skirmish with D. A. Thomas the other day Canada's war lord came out second best, although the Welshman is no great talker and the major general has legions of words at his command. In fact, if words were soldiers Sir Sam would be a whole army division.

The skirmish, as everybody knows, was over the Shell Committee, which is the apple of Sir Sam's left eye, the apple of his right eye being the American Purchasing Committee, which is located in New York. The matter in dispute was whether the shell game in Canada should be run Sir Sam's way or Commissioner Thomas's way, which is Lloyd George's way and the British war office way. Victory rested with the stronger battalions as usual. Mr. Thomas won but the major general, though defeated, is not conquered—he carries his head high and the Rideau Club, where he takes his lunch, thinks of him as a great man yet. How can it do otherwise when it sees him stride in, glorious in khaki, a curt word here, a piercing glance there, an eagle looking for sheep to bite.

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HAD NARROW ESCAPE

In a recent letter to his wife, now residing in St. John, Lieutenant Colonel W. C. Good, formerly of Woodstock, and now in charge of the remount depot in Hantôt, France, tells of a narrow escape he had from death. While at the front with a lot of remounts, a shell burst within a few feet of him, killing four men, but he escaped uninjured. The letter was written at the time the preparations were being made for the offensive movement and he said they had been able to get almost no sleep on account of the terrific noise of the big guns bombarding the trenches of the enemy.

It is easy for a woman to fool a man who thinks he is fooling her. The average hero worshiper spends a lot of time in front of a mirror. How many of the things will be done that you are going to do tomorrow? A woman not only wants to be beautiful but she wants to be told that she is.

Sir Sam thought it was it is because Sir Sam had to give half his mind to something else. At times it has been hinted that Canada would be better off if we had a minister of munitions who would stay at home and be on the job all the time instead of taking joy rides to England and chasing the bubble glory in Buckingham Palace, the Savoy Hotel and other bright spots. It is true that the major general pulled a knighthood out of it and is now entitled to be known as Sir Sam Shoes, but he did it not for himself but for the army, for "my soldiers," who feel proud that their Little Father has been honored by his King. Sam, as you know, is a thorough democrat and takes no titles which are not absolutely necessary. Duty though it was, and keen on duty though Sir Sam is, it irked him to lie down and take the count from any body. They put it on him while he was on the floor—that's what they did. Sam wears the title now and submits to being called "Sir" but that's because he has bought the clothes that go with it. He feels it really belongs to the army.

NEGLECTED HIS KNITTING.

Meanwhile, his critics contend that if Sam had acted as a minister of munitions or had delegated part of his prerogative to somebody else who might act as organizer of the ammunition industry in his absence, in short, if he had kept his mind on the work instead of chasing butterflies up Primrose Piccadilly paths—there are no primroses in Piccadilly, but let it go at that—what we mean is, if Sam had tended to his knitting D. A. Thomas would have had nothing on him. At it is, the Welshman's remarks are in the nature of a mild rebuke.

TOO MUCH FAVORITISM.

The making of shells and big guns in Canada will be under the direction and management of the British War Office from now on. The expectation is that the factories at present engaged in the work will double their output and that the number of factories will also double as soon as the manufacturers understand that the busi-

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ness has been taken out of politics and that the British War Office intends to treat Liberals and Conservatives exactly alike in the awarding of contracts. And if the British War Office can do that for the ammunition industry in Canada what a shame it is that it can't do the same thing for appointments in the militia! These, as it is well known, go all by favor, any little whiffet with the right kind of pull being able to get a lieutenant's commission for seven years' service while seasoned officers, from major generals down, are left at home simply because they are Liberals. However, that is another story.

Another reasonable expectation entertained by Commissioner Thomas is that the deliveries will be quicker and prices lower especially the lower prices. Rumor has it that the toll gate on ammunition contracts is from ten to fifteen per cent.—said assessment not being graft but a contribution to the party war chest—and it is quite certain that the manufacturer doesn't take that fifteen per cent. out of his own pocket. He adds it to the cost of course. The consumer pays.

As the British War Office doesn't give a hoot which party wins in the next election in Canada it is not unlikely that the fifteen per cent. will be cut out and consequently shells will be that much cheaper. Manufacturers' profits may also be trimmed, particularly at such profits are not subject to a sixty per cent. war tax as they are in England. A saving can also be effected in the matter of inspection. If Canadian manufacturers can have the shells inspected in their own factories instead of paying freight to Quebec to have them inspected there and shipped back if they are wrong and reshipped when they are made right—in a word, if the British officers who inspect the shells will remember that the Atlantic seaboard is only a small part of Canada and that there is no objection to their moving round when they do their inspecting, the cost can be whittled that much more.

On the whole it would be no surprise if the reorganized shell committee does everything D. A. Thomas says it will do. At any rate, people will be interested to see how much better the thing gets along when Major General Sir Sam Hughes keeps his hands on it. It will be the one Canadian military enterprise in which Sir Sam hasn't got his thumb and it will bear watching is only on that account.

TO ALL MEN!

RICH, POOR, GOOD and BAD

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