

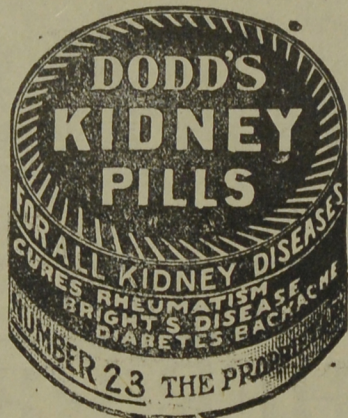
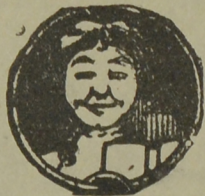


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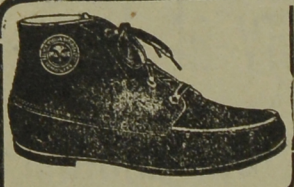


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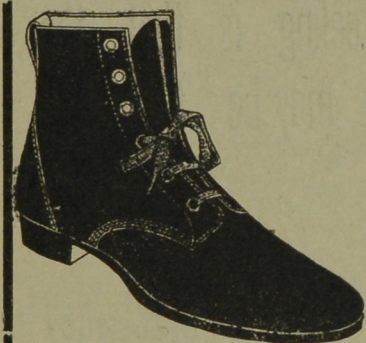
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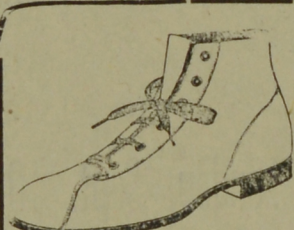
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GENERAL SIR SAM HAS A HEAVY TASK BEFORE HIM

Many Important Questions Only Partly Dealt With During
His Absence—Favoritism in Awarding Contracts
—Eager Young Tories Granted Commissions
After a Snap Course, While Liberals
Are Turned Down

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Sept. 9.—By the time this article appears in print Major-General Sir Sam Hughes will have reached home and the militia department will once more be breathing life, light and sunshine from his smile. Nobody begrudges him his title. He is as perfect a Knight as ever wore white satin breeches and a model major general—in fact, a 1915 model.

It is true that many questions had to be laid over or only partly dealt with because the responsible minister was out of the country but now that he has returned the public may look for quick action. The matter of a disengagement fund, for example, has hung fire while the major general was having a good time in London, but now that he is back on the spot the movement will doubtless receive a new impulse. Other matters which press, which have pressed in fact, during the whole long term of Sir Sam's summer holidays, are vocational training for our partially disabled heroes, the placing of the returned veterans in jobs at least as good as they left and perhaps the establishment of half a dozen soldiers' homes to shelter the utterly helpless. All summer the cripples, the maimed, blinded, shattered by the war, have been drifting back and some of them complain bitterly of their treatment. Canada sent them to battle proudly enough and thought much of glory and things like that but failed to provide for the wreckage. Now that the major general has come back well and strong after the hardships of the London season he will probably look into this question. It is as much the work of the militia department as the complete outfitting of the battalions which enlist for the front.

STILL SOME FAVORITISM.

Another matter which needs mending is a certain favoritism which Sir Sam will be surprised to learn still exists. He probably thought because statesmen on both sides of politics were laying aside their party differences and joining hands to recruit soldiers for King and country that the militia department and the much vaunted purchasing committee were running their business on the same lines. Not so. If the major general had been in Ottawa instead of four thousand miles of blue ocean away he would know that where appointments and contracts are concerned the old traditions are in force. Commissions in the army are like kisses—they go by favor. So do the contracts. The only thing to be shared with the opposition is patriotic speeches.

Canadian soldiers are marching about, some in rags and some in bags, not from choice but because the militia authorities have not supplied them with uniforms. The contracts for uniforms seem to be awarded on the principle that the man with the pull gets the job even if he has no plant while the man with the plant gets no job until he develops a proper pull. This naturally holds things up for it often happens that the man with the pull and the man with the plant do not synchronize, as Finance Minister White would say. When these things are called to his attention the major general may be expected to ask what difference who makes the soldier's coat, so long as it covers a brave heart. As a soldier himself he will understand that courage and loyalty recognize no party lines and that a man will fight as well with Grit khaki on his back as Tory.

CLOTHING WANTED.

As a gallant Knight, Sir Sam will brush all these petty motives aside and insist on the soldiers having the right kind of clothes regardless of the shops they come from. The man with the seat out of his pants who has just joined the army naturally yearns for the raiment of his new calling. So does the other man whose trousers may be intact and whom glory drives. Both are entitled to the self-respect and the advertising of their loyal intentions which a uniform implies. Personally, I do not believe that the uniform will affect their votes one way or the other. The uniform is skin deep but party convictions are a good deal deeper than that.

The major general would be well advised to expel this fear which haunts the militia department and the purchasing committee—the fear that a Tory soldier might change his mind because his fighting clothes came from a Grit factory. There's

nothing in it. The chances are he never thinks of his clothes, so long as he has 'em and they hang together. And even if the subject were called to his attention I doubt if he would pause in the heat of battle to argue out its political bearings.

LIBERALS TURNED DOWN.

Yes, Sir Sam will need to use his eyes—those sharp, glancing, Napoleon eyes, which threaten and command everybody but The Toronto Telegram. If he uses them as he ought he will

soon discover that the system of granting provisional lieutenantcies to eager young Conservatives who take a short snap course at Kingston to qualify while at the same time seasoned officers are 'turned down' for places at the front because they happen to be Liberal, is not a square deal. This system deliberately discourages the patriotic impulses of half the population. And it is not confined to lieutenants either. It affects all ranks. There is right now at least one major general who is suffering from this sort of injustice. Sir Sam once had experience at General Hutton's hands of the flouts that patient merit may be obliged to take from those in authority. He had, as we remember, to go to South Africa on his own hook and might be grateful we are to him for settling the Boer war as he did—he and Turpin. But did he learn the lesson? The lesson that you can't keep a hero down and you mustn't try.

Sir Sam is in great luck, in great luck to be major general and minister of militia for Canada in the greatest war the world has ever seen, in great luck to have a united country behind him and an opposition line even to his faults but it is up to him to use his great luck generously. Providence has drawn no distinction between the courage, ability and patriotism of Liberals and Conservatives—why should the militia department do so?

Nothing is yet heard from the Germans about that fight at Riga. Perhaps it was too near a case of Riga-mortis.

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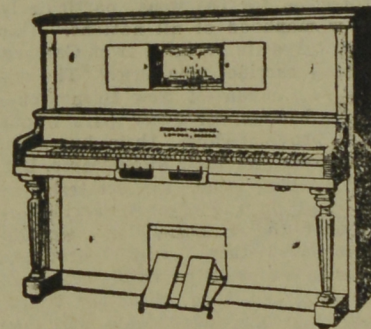
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