

# MAJOR GENERAL SIR SAM AND FORD AUTOMOBILES

Minister of Militia Caught the Popular Ear When He Got  
After the Detroit Philanthropist—Ford Cars Used  
By the Militia Department

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Oct. 16—Major General Sir Sam's reappearance in his native country is the signal to all Ottawa correspondents to sharpen their pencils and fill their fountain pens. When the major general is away from home news lags but once his foot touches Canadian soil and he springs into the limelight again the correspondents feel that their troubles are over.

Sir Sam's private car Roleen—another on Elenore, query, who's Elenore—doesn't know a dill minute, so busy is the major general dashing from one camp to another, stirring officers up, enlivening fall fairs with his terse speeches, flouting mayors and adding generally to the excitement of his fellow citizens. Perhaps the major general doesn't say all he might but he thinks the rest. He is a tremendous example of partially restrained loquacity. The movements of his face in the matter of verbal utterances are always important.

The major general seems to have caught the popular ear with his plain words to Henry Ford, the man who puts tin cans on castors and calls them automobiles. It is conceded that Sir Sam didn't say a word too much. He gave him his answer, did Sir Sam, and after this the Detroit philanthropist will be more careful in his remarks about the visiting delegations. In excuse for Henry it may be said that tin cans are an obsession with him. He has tied them to so many people at such a huge profit to himself that his mind is full of tin cans. His head has been swelled by the newspaper reporters and as his head contains the usual number of tin cans possessed by a head which has indicated itself almost entirely to making money it is no wonder that when he speaks on any other subject his opinions rattle.

SIR SAM'S CHANCE.

Thoughts like these passed rapidly

through Sir Sam's mind when he heard Henry Ford making a noise like a mental process. Which recalls the fact that Sir Sam stayed at home some three years ago when he had a chance to biff Henry even harder. At that time the minister of militia had been buying a whole flock of Fords for his department. His plan was never to have less than a dozen Fords plying between the West Block and the Rideau Club, so that the colonels could be quickly mobilized. Honorary colonels were multiplying so fast in Ottawa that the ratepayers complained of tripping over them and something had to be done to relieve the pressure. It was under these circumstances that the Fords were bought and turned in to the government at the full catalogue prices.

This touched a sore spot in "Ollie" Wilcox, who sits for Essex, the county in which the transaction occurred, and where the money changed hands. The Fords have a factory in Essex county and the local member felt that when anything was being done to increase the prosperity of his constituency and make more work for the voters employed in the Ford factory, he ought to be consulted. He didn't put it quite that way but that was what he had at the back of his head.

NO DISCOUNT ASKED FOR.

What he did point out was that Major General Sir Sam was entitled to a considerable reduction on taking a quantity and that as the automobiles had practically sold themselves, the government of Canada should have at least docked twenty-five per cent. in lieu of agents' commissions. In short so far as pride was concerned Henry Ford had tied a tin can to Major General Sir Sam Hughes and Ollie Wilcox, as a patriot, a member of parliament and a business man in the immediate neighborhood of this foolish bargain which didn't give him a look in—as all these things, I repeat, Ollie Wilcox resented it. How-

ever, Sir Sam stood by the Fords and the expenditure was ratified. There is no point in dragging this story in here except to show that even Major General Sir Sam Hughes can't foresee everything.

He foresees a lot however. Friends are recalling that he went over the battle terrain in France and Flanders two years before the war broke out. Terrain—yes, that was it—at all events it was the place where the war is now being fought. The major general went over it. He went over it with another expert, a lady stenographer, who no sooner saw the terrain than she invented a shovel with a hole in the middle for soldiers to shoot through, for which she was afterwards awarded a contract for \$25,000. That's what a lady stenographer gets for going over the terrain with a major general whose brain teems with ideas. You just naturally catch it—the ideas, I mean, not the terrain. She caught the terrain all right—but it was a terrain of thought.

SIR SAM'S SHOVELS.

If Major General Sir Sam had loaded himself up with a bunch of bone-headed Canadian colonels instead of leaving them, much against their will in London, you take my word for it he would have come out of that terrain without a thought worth mentioning. Nothing interferes with celebration like a flock of colonels hanging around and thirsting for high balls. But placing himself in the right environment, as he did, Sir Sam emerged from the terrain with the most colossal prediction of war. When he reached Ottawa he told his friends about it. Several colonels in the militia department will make affidavits if necessary. He said, quite simply, no brass band being present outside himself, "It will be a war of trenches." What's more, he followed it up with deeds. When the war broke out he wrote to the War Office tendering the steam shovels he had used at Valcartier Camp. He wrote to Kitchener and Sir John French. What he wrote to French was trench, what he wrote to Kitch was ditch. They replied courteously but they did not take his steam shovels. Perhaps they had shovels of their own. Perhaps they knew about it before.

But that isn't all the major general knows about the war. He knew definitely when it is going to end. Being asked this question the other day he replied quick as a flash: "When the Germans are beaten." There's foreknowledge for you!

It almost leads one to ask why forty thousand troops, fully equipped and thoroughly trained, troops that have got all the finishing touches

## PERSONAL

Mr. M. L. Woodall of Toronto, is in the city.

Miss Mary Thompson of Ottawa, is visiting Mrs. George Allen.

Mrs. Knowles, formerly of Boston, is visiting Miss Gregory.

Mr. W. B. Belyea of Woodstock is a guest at the Queen.

Miss Florrie Clements is the guest of Miss Hubbard at Burton.

Master Frederick Newcomb who is ill from pneumonia is steadily improving.

Messrs. Edward O'Connor and Sandy Staples have returned from a trip to Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Bustin and Miss Busin of St. John, are at the Barker House.

Mrs. Frank Cooper left last week for Kansas City, where she will spend the winter at her former home.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Allen and child of Porto Rico, are visiting Mr. Allen's parents, Mr. E. H. and Mrs. Allen.

Dr. Barbour has returned from a trip to Boston, where he witnessed the World's Series baseball games.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gregory left on Tuesday evening for Montreal, where they will visit their son, Mr. Philip Gregory.

Miss Bessie Lee of Halifax, who has been visiting Mrs. deLancy Robinson, is now the guest of Mrs. Stanley Clowes, Oromocto.

Mrs. W. J. Glenn has returned from a fortnight's trip to Nova Scotia and will resume her duties as deputy secretary-treasurer next week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. C. Parlee and son, Babbitt, who have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hoban, returned to their home in Moncton on Tuesday.

WANTED TO START SOMETHING.

Creditor—Can't you pay me something on account of that bill you owe me?

Debtor (grouchily)—How much do you want?

Creditor—Well, enough to fee a lawyer to bring suit for the balance anyway.—Boston Transcript.

THE UP-TO-DATE GIRL.

The Man—Lemme go! I'm all right; I can swim.

The Girl—I don't care. I'm going to save you. I want a medal.—Chicago Herald.

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their Canadian instructors can give them, are being held in this country for the winter instead of being sent to England where their keep will be cheaper and their access to the war more convenient? Are they, by any chance, being located for the purposes of a general election.

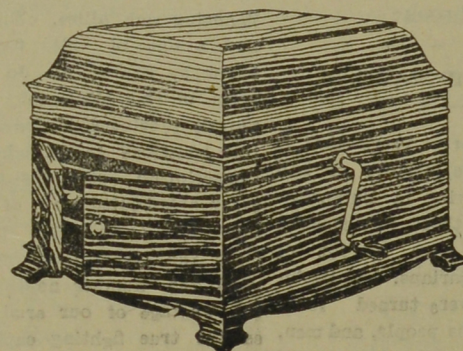
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