

In the dear, dim, distant days *As you see*

FIGHTING DAYS OF SIR SAM HUGHES RECALLED

The millions of dollars being budgeted for yearly by the Dominion Government for further development and expansion of the Trent Valley Canal recalls to many district people the fighting days of the late Major General, the Honourable Sir Sam Hughes, who represented the local riding in the House of Commons. Sam Hughes was a fighter with his pen, tongue and fists and he got things done. He envisioned the Trent Valley Canal as a real waterway to transport vessels from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario, and as far back as the early nineteen hundreds, he managed to squeeze through estimates in the government budget for the Trent Valley canal.

In the last year or two, a million dollars was expended on the canal locks at Fenelon Falls and further millions, some twelve in all, are booked to be spent on the system in the next year or two.

History recalls that in the days of the Borden government when Sam Hughes was Minister of Militia (around 1913), that government set aside one of the largest amounts ever placed in the estimates for work to be done on the Trent Valley Canal, and the estimates as brought down called for an expenditure of over two million dollars on the canal.

Two million dollars, was a lot of money, but it should be remembered that there were twelve representatives, including Col. the Hon. Sir Sam Hughes, in the House at Ottawa, at that time, from ridings bordering on the Trent Canal.

In the estimates brought down, one million, nine hundred thousand dollars was set aside for construction work on the canal and twenty thousand dollars to meet damages incurred on drowned land caused by flooding. Twenty thousand dollars was also set aside for the building of a new bridge across the Trent River at Frankfort, while forty-one thousand, five hundred dollars was set aside for income purposes. This latter amount included some twelve or fifteen thousand dollars for Lindsay for dredging the channel of the Scugog River and improving a number of the lighthouses. New lighthouses were to be erected including a large one at Sturgeon Point, and new lighthouses on Lake Simcoe. One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars was set aside for maintenance and repairs.

In fact, there never has been a government that had dealt more liberally for the Trent Canal than the Borden government and Col. the Hon. Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defence, representing the Riding of Victoria and Haliburton.

Today, the Trent Valley Canal has on its system the largest lift locks in the world at Peterboro and the second largest in the world at Kirkfield. The number of lockages from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario total over twenty thousand a year and the amount of dollars spent along the sys-

tem and in adjacent towns and cities is up in the hundreds of thousands.

More and more craft of all types and sizes have been using the Scugog River and docking at the town wharf in Lindsay.