

TRIAL^{IN} COBOURG

Sir Arthur Currie, a native of Napperton, Ontario, was in command of the Canadian Corps from its inception in 1917 to the end of the “War to End All Wars”, as it was called.

As that end appeared imminent, but was still not finalized, Currie was receiving orders to continue his advance against the enemy. Under his command, in the early morning hours of November 11, Armistice Day, the Royal Canadian Regiment and others liberated the town of Mons, Belgium.

Canadian casualties during those last two days totalled 280.

It was Sir Sam Hughes, Canadian Minister of War at its beginning, who was influential in Currie's appointment to head the Canadian Corps. However, by war's end, the two had become bitter enemies, partly because Currie had thwarted the military advancement of Sir Sam's son, Garnet, believing him to be unsuitable as a field officer

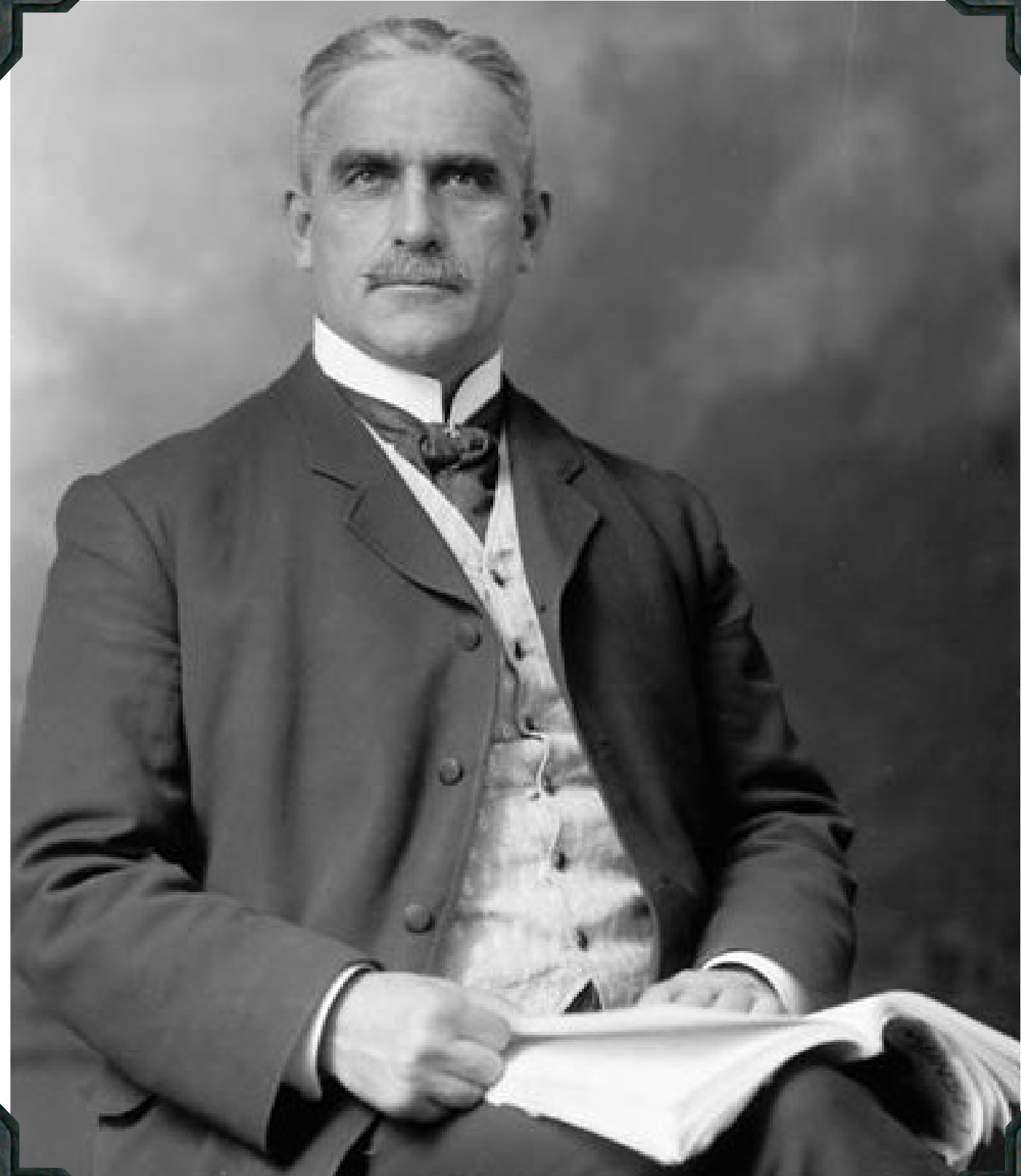
The loss of life under Currie's leadership led many, including some soldiers, to accuse him of sending men unnecessarily to their peril. This anger was stirred up by both Hughes, father and son. Protected by parliamentary privilege from being sued for words spoken in the House of Commons, Sir Sam took to castigating Currie in parliament without

naming him personally. The accusing words of Sir Sam echoed through the country long after his death in 1921.

Garnet Hughes continued the attacks through the newspapers controlled by his family.

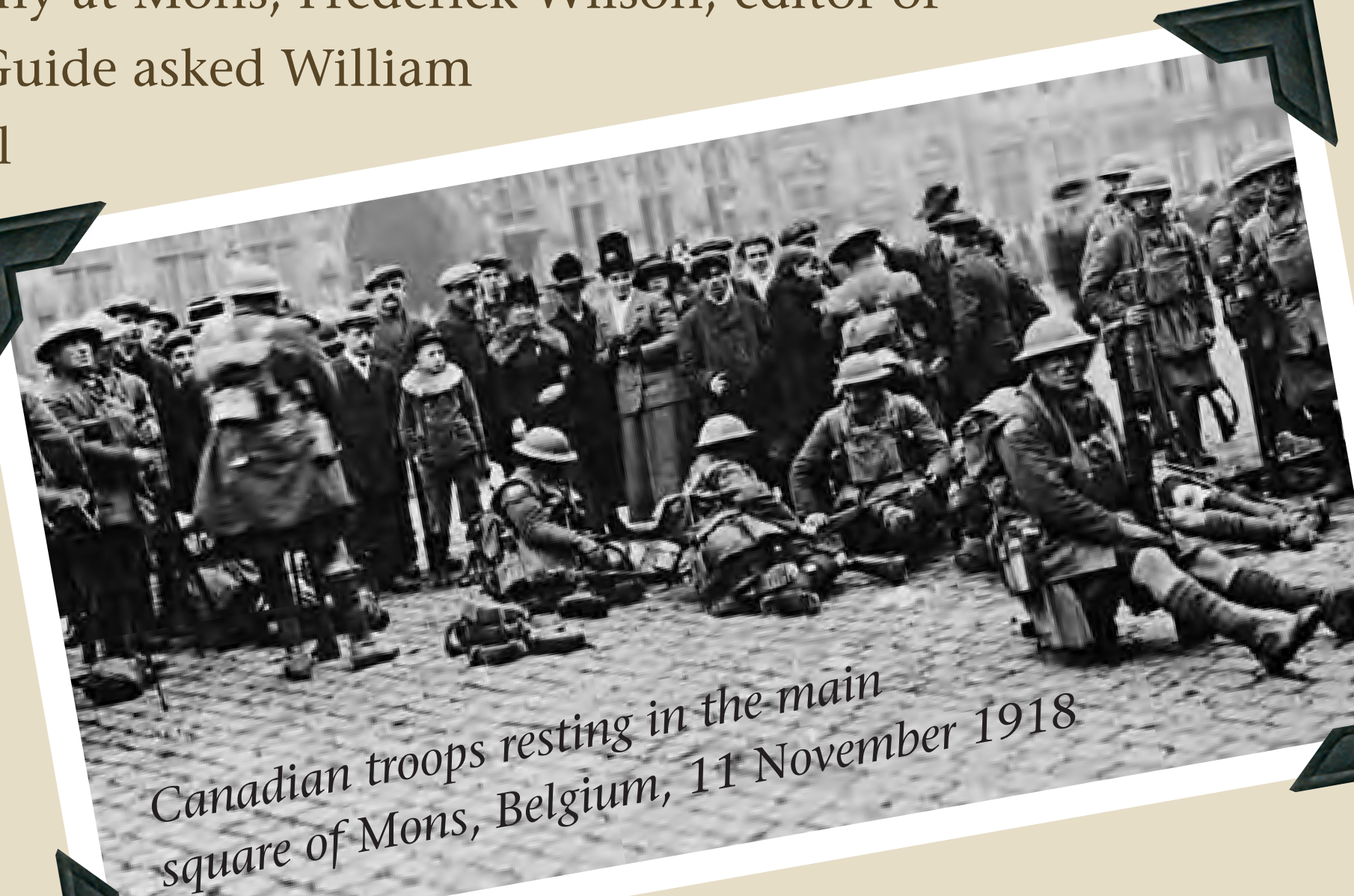
Sir Sam Hughes
Minister of Militia
and Defence

In office
10 October 1911 –
12 October 1916



Sir Arthur Currie

In 1927, after reading a glowing commentary in the Toronto Globe on a commemorative ceremony at Mons, Frederick Wilson, editor of the Port Hope Evening Guide asked William Preston, a noted political muckraker, to write an opinion piece. Preston wrote a scathing commentary, stating that the attack on Mons caused an appalling loss of life and was designed to further Currie's future ambitions.



Canadian troops resting in the main square of Mons, Belgium, 11 November 1918