

HUGHES HELD UP AS AN EXAMPLE REQUIRED TODAY

Efforts Far Outshine
Present Results, Frost
Tells House in Clash

REPLIES TO HUNTER

A vigorous defense of the administration of Sir Sam Hughes as Minister of Militia during the last war, coupled with the statement that "his courage, vision and vigor of outlook stand like mountain peaks compared to the temperament of those in authority today," was made in the Legislature yesterday by L. M. Frost (Cons., Victoria).

Mr. Frost rose to dispute a statement made by Col. Fraser Hunter (Lib., Toronto-St. Patrick) that "our people will stand no more Lindsay hierarchies with their trail of graft and waste of young life; its ham and Ross rifles, nor will the British people, as the recent shake-up in England bears witness."

Mr. Frost rose quickly after Colonel Hunter had finished, and said that, although he congratulated the representative from St. Patrick on "nearly everything you have said, I take strong exception to your reference to the Lindsay hierarchies and its obvious implications with regard to the regime of Sir Sam Hughes as Minister of Militia." (Sir Sam Hughes was member for North Victoria in the House of Commons during the war years.)

Denies He Meant Hughes.

Colonel Hunter denied he was referring to Sir Sam, and asked the Speaker if he could give the name of the man he meant.

In reply to cries of "Yes" from the Opposition benches, he said: "Sir Joseph Flavelle." (Sir Joseph died in Florida last year.)

Mr. Frost continued his defense of Sir Sam Hughes, and said that his efforts as Minister of Militia during the last war far outshone the results so far obtained by the present Federal Government.

"Until the present Asquiths at Ottawa are removed there will be a shortage of munitions," he said, and precipitated the first cross-chamber fire of the present session, involving Morgan Baker (Lib., North York), John Newlands (Lib., Hamilton), and Opposition Leader George Drew.

"Sir Sam Hughes made mistakes," said Mr. Frost, "but as the Prime Minister said yesterday, a man who does not make mistakes does not make anything else. If he were in power today there would not be men waiting in jail to join the army for Sir Sam would have them in the forces. There would also be uni-

forms for the men if they were required."

Cites Arsenal Building.

He said that public opinion had been against the war preparations of Sir Sam before the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, "but in spite of this he built arsenals throughout the country that are being used for our war effort today. Sir Sam mobilized 35,000 men in Valcartier Camp within two weeks of the outbreak of the war, and sent 33,000 fully equipped Canadians to England within two months."

Mr. Frost added that when Sir Sam retired in 1916 there were four fully equipped Canadian divisions in France and "no detail of equipment was added to the Canadian Army after his retirement."

Colonel Hunter jumped up to object: "Are you aware that the Indian Army was deprived of rifles to equip the Canadian troops? Ask any professional soldier what he thought of Sir Sam Hughes."

"Let me remind you that I was a professional soldier," replied Mr. Frost. "Sir Sam admitted his mistake about the Ross rifle, and they were withdrawn while he was still Minister of Defense. Today at Lindsay there is a plant capable of employing 1,500 men in shifts. Ottawa has been working around it for two years, yet there are just thirty inside, and thirty men outside, guarding those who are inside."

Sees Shortage of Arms.

"General McNaughton is a fine officer, and I feel sure he will be named alongside the illustrious Sir Arthur Currie," added Mr. Frost. "But General McNaughton cannot make munitions, and until we get rid of the Asquiths at Ottawa there will be a shortage of arms," he said amid applause from both sides of the House, led by Colonel Drew and Acting Premier Harry Nixon.

The debate flared further when Morgan Baker asked if the Conservative member was not aware that there were more munitions in England and on the Western Front than they knew what to do with and that it was not the desire of the British Government for Canada to manufacture "more munitions than they know what to do with?"

Colonel Drew, before Mr. Baker was halfway through his observation, was seen to be motioning to Mr. Frost that he would make the reply.

Barely had he drawn himself to full height when he rapped out: "In the first place the member has no authority to make such a statement. And," he continued, "when the member asserted munitions were not being made at the direction of the British Government, he doesn't know what he is talking about."

"Not only are we not making munitions for the men we are sending to the front, but we are not making munitions for the peacetime complement in Canada of six divisions."

"So incomplete have been the preparations for the present war," continued Colonel Drew, "that the same Ross rifles which were condemned twenty years ago, are being used for training in Canada."

Told Little Made Here.

Mr. Frost claimed a steel industrialist within the past few days had advised him that little or no munitions were being made in Toronto and yet, Mr. Frost added, "we glibly talk about Canada being the arsenal of the Empire."

John Newlands (Lib., Hamilton Centre): "We have been making munitions in Hamilton for the past two years."

"Well, if you have, it is the only place in Ontario where it is being done," replied Mr. Frost, and as he added, that unless something was done immediately, our cause in the war might be lost, there was applause in which Colonel Hunter and a score of other Liberals joined.

The Lindsay arsenal, said Mr. Frost, was crowded with equipment used in the last war, Ross rifles, field kitchens and other material. Last week-end, he was informed that the Federal authorities were planning to build a large addition to house this equipment.

"One might well ask the Asquiths at Ottawa if this equipment is of no use in this war, what is the use of storing it for possible wars in the future?" he said.

Mr. Frost suggested that the rifles and the field kitchens might be sold at public auction—or given away some place where they might do the most good.

"Give it to the Russians," broke in Colonel Hunter.

The debate ended with Liberal Whip Strachan moving adjournment in the absence of Allan Lamport (Lib., Toronto, St. David).