

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Monday, Nov. 8, 1915.

THE GAMBLERS

The success of the Liberal meeting on Friday night exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine "Grit" in town, and is further proof, if that were needed, that there is a strong and ever-growing desire amongst the honest, thinking men of British Columbia for a government at Victoria. McBride and his gang got into power at a time when the people of this province were in a gambling mood, and the result was a gambling government. In no sense of the word has the McBride-Bowser gang endeavored to govern British Columbia.

The province has been "run" not governed, and it has been run by the Conservative party for the Conservative party, at a cost last year of \$15,000,000. It has been a most inglorious gamble. The province has been run virtually on the proceeds of discounted notes, without a thought being given to the fact that the notes would have to be met in due course. Thousands of honest Conservatives, and all men of independent thought in every corner of the province are ready to support a party of honest men who will try to restore the credit of British Columbia. It will be a long, hard climb, requiring infinite patience and careful application, but it will be accomplished. There is no "if" in connection with the defeat of the McBride-Bowser gang. It is long since assured and they themselves by the rankest methods known to "junkierism" have made it certain.

William Manson, the representative of Bowserism in Rupert, but not the representative of the people, is reported by the Journal to be "studying the needs of the settlers." He is

too late by several years, for the settlers have been anxiously studying their own needs for a long time now, and they are going to see that they are met fairly and honestly, but they can never be met by Bowserism. William Manson is relying upon the power of the machine to send him back to Victoria, but he will find that the machine has lost its power, and is as helpless as a netted German submarine.

EXCESS PROFITS IN MAKING MUNITIONS

(Continued From Page One.)

cause a plan like that shows no particular contrivance," is not original, and is no measure of the Major General's constructive ability.

Whatever the plan is it's a record breaker—that can almost be taken for granted. If the British War Office has not already adopted the Major General's plan it is probably because it promises too much. Sir Sam is nothing if not sanguine and the British War Office knows that. It is the one failing in a great man and though it leans to virtue's side frequently it comes into conflict with the statistics. When Sir Sam was over in England this summer he made the statement that Canada could furnish a million and a half men if necessary. Perhaps it could, especially if Sir Sam's plan—which, mark you, is not conscription—was followed, but it looked almost too good to be true and it started the Englishmen figuring. Even after subtracting the half million Sir Sam might expect to come over from the United States and enlist, and leaving Canada with a scant million to provide, they couldn't see how Sam was going to get them in a country of eight million people.

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ple, of whom a considerable proportion were old men and infants, women and children, and ineffective, not to mention those who might have to stay at home to keep the wheels turning. They have formed the habit of reckoning these things rather closely in England, and when they squeezed the radiant optimism out of Sir Sam's words they thought more of him as a hero and less of him as a mathematician than they had done before. In fact Sir Sam's high hopes, jubilantly expressed, let him down a peg or two with the hard-headed Britons.

The trouble was that Sir Sam did not go into details. He is a great announcer, but a poor explainer, as the present position of the Shell Committee indicates. Sir Sam announces that it is all right, that it is the best Shell Committee that ever was, but he does not explain why three dispassionate observers, in the person of D. A. Thomas and two ammunition experts from Great Britain, are laying hands on it to reorganize it and squeeze out the excessive profits. The Ottawa Citizen has shown that in one item alone, the "machining" of the shells, it has been the practice of the manufacturers at one time to charge five times as much as it cost in Great Britain, that even now it costs three times as much, and that manufacturers who would do it for only half as much are not allowed to have a look-in.

In fact there has been so much "velvet" in shell orders handed out in Canada that at least one contract-hog which had bitten off more than it could chew, found it could sub-let to manufacturers in the United States and still come out with a sultan's ransom in the way of profits. Which was done accordingly.

Such transactions are in line with the experience of the small arms manufacturers in the United States, who, it is alleged, had agreed on a price of twenty-five dollars per thousand rounds of the standard cartridge, but were told to charge twenty-seven dollars and invoice the goods at twenty-five. This story has yet to be denied.

At all events there is or has been enough excess profit in munition manufacturing in Canada and speculation in war stocks for the Finance Minister to confiscate say nine-tenths of it in the way taxes. No patriot will ask for more than ten per cent net, particularly in times when so many other people are making nothing. As a matter of fact, if he is a real patriot, he ought to be satisfied to clear expenses and make no money out of the Empire's agony, but perhaps that would be too much to expect of human imperfection. Meanwhile it is up

(Continued on Page Three.)

"When the Victoria graft is investigated it will make that of Manitoba look like thirty cents," said T. D. Pattullo Friday night.



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