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THE TRIUMPH OF GREED

Evidence acculicates that Sir Robert Borden's Purchasing Commission is playing politics with war contracts. The Hon. A. E. Kemp, as the responsible head of the commission, cannot afford to ignore the very definite charge of maladministration made in the current issue of Men's Wear, a journal devoted to the interests of the clothing trade, and published by the Acton Company, a firm of excellent reputation. Men's Wear says:

"It is not a shame, it is a crime, that in a time of life or death with the nation men should traffic in its needs. There are men fattening at the public trough while their fellows pour out their life blood in a foreign land. There are men scheming to make money out of this awful tragedy while the cries of heart-broken widows and orphans rise to heaven. Our soldiers go half clad while political tricksters and cowardly shysters play this boodle game.

"Canada's minister of militia is not to blame for the equipment blunders and delays that have held back his efforts to put the full number of men in the field. No man in Canada could have accomplished more than General Sir Sam Hughes has done in the past year to give this country her true place in the great conflict and the mother country the support she needs in this greatest crisis in her history; but his hands have been tied by a cursed political system. There is absolutely no reason why there should be a word of complaint with regard to the supply of clothing, shoes, and accoutrements. We have plenty of concerns in Canada to supply all that is needed in much less

time than it takes to get the men to wear them, and if the minister of militia had the handling of these matters there would be a different story to tell.

"The situation is best illustrated by a case that has occurred in the city of Toronto. In spite of the number of bona fide clothing factories anxious to get a share of the work, a large contract for uniforms was recently given to a real estate man, who had no more experience in clothing manufacture than the member of parliament who got him the contract. He farmed out the order to a firm of foreigners at a net profit of over twenty thousand dollars, promptly covering his chances for loss with insurance. Here is a man who, beyond perhaps a subscription to the party fund, has never turned his hand in the making of a fortune out of his country's necessity. No doubt instances might be multiplied almost indefinitely. As we have already said, it is not a shame, it is a crime."

The Globe gives space to this very serious statement in the hope that Sir Robert Borden will insist upon a public inquiry into the circumstances attending the awarding of contracts for the clothing and equipment of Canadian troops. The incident referred to in Men's Wear is not an isolated one. Some of the strongest Conservatives among the manufacturers of Toronto could tell similar stories. There were references to the diversion of contracts to middlemen who did nothing but collect a rake-off in correspondence that passed between the Canadian manufacturers and the government almost a year ago. Why not ask Sir Charles Davidson

NO ALUM



to turn his attention to the clothing and equipment contracts, so that the country may learn the names of the "political tricksters and cowardly shysters" accused by Men's Wear of playing the boodle game while Canada's soldiers go half clad?—Toronto Globe.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Conservative "Cabinet Crisis Doctor," the Hon. Bob Rogers, has been sent for by the British Columbia Tories. Bob used to have a great reputation for "doctoring," but the Manitoba debacle left it rather badly dented.

Bob said that he had never heard that there had been any quarrel in Victoria. This doubtless is what may be termed a "diplomatic truth." No doubt Bob listened with the same ear which failed to record the graft stories from Manitoba.

After his experiences with Roblin, Bob Rogers evidently thinks it safer to appear in person at the seat of trouble rather than to trust to telegrams. Conversations are harder to get hold of than telegraph files and leave nothing to be destroyed.

The citizens of Peace River Crossing have decided to drop the "Crossing" and this famous spot in the annals of northern travel will in future be known as Peace River.

The "Kulturists" who took movie films of the sinking France would be careful to miss out the shelling of lifeboats.

It is reported that Bill Bowser had to call in Bob Rogers in order to convince Sir Dick that London will suit his health much better than Victoria. Of course Dick prefers London to Victoria, but he would much rather go of his own accord.

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