

and that other gentlemen with personal fortunes aggregating very large sums away up in the millions and tens of millions were behind the other, you will understand, Sir, that it is no wonder that the Guaranty Trust Company of North America was only too ready to go as security for those companies. The money so advanced went for the purpose for which it was intended, namely, for the purchase of plant and material. That is the general situation. The details will be elaborated later. From the experience which has been gained, I think perhaps it would have been better to undertake the manufacture of fuses in Canada, as I understand that similar undertakings have since been started in England and also in France. As a further instance of the bona fides of those two firms, it may be noted that the above advance of money was only 15 per cent of the contract price, whereas the usual cash advance through Morgan and Company is 25 per cent.

I turn now to the Hansard report of the speech of the hon. member for Richmond, which will be found on page 2360 of the Unrevised Hansard, under date of March 28. The hon. member states:

The reason why Mr. Thomas did not have the opportunity of consulting with my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition was—

And so forth. I think it is rather a pity that my hon. friend did not consult with the leader of the Opposition, because, if he had done so, if my information is correct, he would have found that the right hon. the leader of the Opposition did have a conference with Mr. Thomas.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I had no conference with Mr. Thomas. He called on me socially; that was all.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I am not retailing any confidential information imparted to me by Mr. Thomas. I have no hesitation in telling the House and this country and the British Empire that Mr. Thomas did not state that it was a private conference. He called on the right hon. the leader of the Opposition by request—so he informed him—of the Minister of Munitions of England, and had a conference. Whether it was long or short, public or private, good, bad or indifferent, I care not.

On page 2362 of the Unrevised Hansard the hon. member for Richmond says:

With the exception of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, there was no factory or plant in Canada manufacturing t.n.t.

[Sir Sam Hughes.]

I regret exceedingly to have to correct the hon. member again. The Dominion Iron and Steel Company has never yet manufactured any t.n.t. This is another sin of the Shell Committee. When I was in England in 1914 I was asked by the War Office if t.n.t. could be manufactured in Canada. On my return to this country I sent for General Bertram, the then chairman of the Shell Committee. We talked the matter over, and the result was that the Dominion Iron and Steel Company received through the agency of the Shell Committee an advance of \$90,000 to enable them to start the manufacture, not of t.n.t., but of toluol, a component part of t.n.t. Thus, through the instrumentality of the Shell Committee, the manufacture of toluol, which is subsequently manufactured into tri-nitro-toluene, was begun in the Dominion of Canada, and the credit for that is due to the Shell Committee and those who are associated with it. I merely make this remark as a passing correction. I have not yet found in the speech of the hon. member any statement that is correct, and I will just correct a few of his misstatements en passant.

The toluol manufactured by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company is taken to a place near Montreal and manufactured into t.n.t. The Toronto Chemical Company at the Sault, through the instrumentality of the Shell Committee and those associated with it, manufacture toluol, which is manufactured into t.n.t. The Curtis and Harvey Company and the Canadian Explosives Company are also manufacturing t.n.t.

With regard to a gentleman of whom some of you may have heard, Colonel J. Wesley Allison, I may say that this officer was formerly associated with Vanderbilt and Dr. Webb in the New York Central railway. I understand that he was purchasing agent or something of that kind. He was respected and is respected by the manufacturing concerns of the United States and of the Dominion of Canada. At the outbreak of the war manufacturers and contractors in the United States were uncertain whether under the law they could deliver their commodities to a foreign country in war time. It was uncertain whether the then Secretary of State, William Jennings Bryan, would not endeavour to prevent the exportation of these commodities. I challenge an instance where a contractor in the United States at that period undertook to deliver, outside of the