

MEREDITH-DUFF COMMISSION REPORT

SIR SAM HUGHES AND THE SHELL COMMITTEE NOT PROMISED OR PAID ANY COMMISSION NEITHER GENERAL HUGHES OR SHELL COMMITTEE KNEW OF ALLISON COMMISSION

Col. Carnegie Also Exonerated Completely; "Overburdened With Work"

LATEST FRENCH ADVANCE IN SOMME SECTOR OVERGONE VERY STRONG ENEMY DEFENCE

Meredith-Duff Commission Presented Its Report on The Kyte Charges To-day

BRITISH LINES NORTH OF BAZENTIN PUSHED FORWARD Battle Continues Without Intermission

In One Short Rush Captured and Held Underground Fortifications in a Star Shaped Wood and on the Slopes of a Hill—In the Wood Alone Were 90 Trenches

Shows That Sir Sam, Shell Committee and Col Carnegie Not Guilty of Any Wrong Doing

—New British Attack Indicates That Decided Superiority is Now Being Established Over the Enemy

By Special Wire to the Courier. Paris, July 21.—The resumption of the battle of the Somme in the French sector, has greatly enhanced the general confidence in the situation. The protracted lack of operations on more than a minor scale was beginning to make the public fear that the first results would have...

By Special Wire to the Courier. Ottawa, July 21.—The judgment of the Meredith-Duff Royal Commission, which investigated the allegations made by G. W. Kyte, in the House of Commons in reference to fuse contracts let by the shell committee to the American Ammunition Company and the International Arms and Fuse Company, was presented to the government this morning. It finds that a "mistake was made in placing upon the already overburdened shoulders of Col. Carnegie (ordnance expert to the shell committee) the work of conducting the business or commercial part of the transactions for which work he possessed no special qualifications."

By Special Wire to the Courier. London, July 21.—The British line north of Bazentin and Longueval has been pushed forward to Fourcaux, the British drove the Germans from the wood, but lost part of this position subsequently. The statement follows: "The battle continues without intermission between the Leipzig re-advance on the west and Delville wood on the east. North of the Bazentin-Longueval line the British advance has been pushed to Fourcaux wood, from which we drove the enemy. During the night the enemy counter-attacked, after an intense bombardment with gas shells and succeeded in effecting entry into the northern part of the wood, but failed to dislodge us from the southern half. "Elsewhere there is no change."

French troops, carefully prepared for their work and skillfully led, not only won through everywhere but held on to their gains and were preparing last night to attempt to still further extend them. Weather Delays Advance It now develops that yesterday's effort was due several days ago, but the artillery preparation was delayed by heavy weather. The French commanders report that the preliminary bombardment was so effective that the losses of the attackers were comparatively light.

The judgment further announces the opinion of the commissioners that Col. Allison, "while professing to be acting as the friend of General Hughes, and to be doing what he did in regard to the fuse contracts solely out of friendship for him, an unwarranted and unjustified expectation or intention of receiving any remuneration for his services, Allison was instrumental in bringing about a contract in which he was pecuniarily interested. If we had had accepted Allison's statement, we would have been bound to say that his conduct in taking benefit of the agreement as to commission without informing General Hughes and the committee, could not either be justified or excused."

ing a decided supremacy over the enemy. A German counter-attack was expected. If the Germans had failed to make use of this juncture, it would have been a clear proof that they were too weak or exhausted to take advantage of the opportunity given by the British occupation of new ground, for the defense of which only hurried measures were possible. Counter-Attacks a Failure. The German counter-attack was delivered in great strength and met with a certain amount of success. In the light of General Haig's later despatches, military critics here judge that the German claims to have recaptured the whole of Longueval and Delville wood, were made at the moment of their greatest success. German reports of fighting at Verdun showed frequently it was the German method to single out the moment when the attack was at its height for issuing a report. "If the British recover lost ground we shall have great reason to be satisfied, for it will show the enemy's strength is definitely on the wane, and that the sanguine calculations about the depletion of his reserves which are being circulated in France have substantial foundation."

Winning at Verdun Contrary to expectations, the Germans have made no attempt to follow up the smashing blow delivered against the northern Verdun defenses a week ago. The French counter-attacks, according to the official accounts, are gradually winning back the ground gained by the Germans at heavy cost in the vicinity of Thilmont and Fleury. This inactivity on the part of the crown price is interpreted by French military opinion as evidence that the Germans are finding increasing difficulty in concentrating troops at anyone point on the front.

Views of Col Allison. The judgment further announces the opinion of the commissioners that Col. Allison, "while professing to be acting as the friend of General Hughes, and to be doing what he did in regard to the fuse contracts solely out of friendship for him, an unwarranted and unjustified expectation or intention of receiving any remuneration for his services, Allison was instrumental in bringing about a contract in which he was pecuniarily interested. If we had had accepted Allison's statement, we would have been bound to say that his conduct in taking benefit of the agreement as to commission without informing General Hughes and the committee, could not either be justified or excused."

German Sub Mine-Layer on Exhibition in Thames Entire Forward Part Is Composed of Wells, Six in Number, each Containing Two Powerful Mines. NO ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW THE LAWS OF WAR.

Italy Places Property and Persons of Germans on Alien Enemy Basis Ministerial Decree Issued Yesterday States Allies of Austria Are Enemies of Italy and Subjects and Goods Liable to Sequestration.

Dealing with General Hughes, the judgment states that he "had nothing to do with the making of the Edwards' Cartridge Case contract, and as far as evidence appears, knew nothing about the transaction being entered into." A Lengthy Document. The judgment is a lengthy document. The first portion is a summary of the evidence taken before the commissioners. The report of the commission at the outset states: "We see nothing in the letter of General Hughes' asking the Shell Committee for a shell contract for his home town of Lindsay to suggest the exercise of influence or pressure in the awarding of contracts. It was a most natural, and in no way improper thing for the minister to call the attention of the committee to the claims of manufacturing industry which he represents to consideration."

war office, and the shell committee was authorized to obtain, were that the shell committee by the letter of the 21st of May, to Bassick, and the negotiations with him and his associates had committed itself to give him a contract for 2,500,000 time fuses. "General Bertram appears to have been entrusted with the business or commercial side of the contracts. The commissioners made it very plain that the Colonel's integrity is not affected by their findings. He had no knowledge of the commission paid to Allison."

Dispatch Was Necessary Dealing with the alleged discrimination against Canadian manufacturers, the report contains an undoubtedly anxious note that all munitions of war that the Shell Committee desired to obtain, which could be produced in Canada, should be made in Canada, and that the government should make every effort to bring about the manufacturing of time fuses in Canada, and it was owing to his persuasion that the war office was induced to consent to an experiment of order for the manufacture in Canada of 20,000 time fuses. He ultimately came to the conclusion that it would be impossible to insure the production by Canadian manufacturers of such fuses at all events, with the dispatch that was necessary. Such knowledge as he had of the conditions of manufacturing industries of Canada and the facilities which Canadian manufacturers then possessed for entering upon the work of manufacturing time fuses convinced him that they had not then, and could not obtain, the machinery, tools and trained experts that, in his judgment, were essential to enable them to produce the loaded fuses with the dispatch that he considered necessary.

Decision of Committee Not Unreasonable. "It is quite clear that, down to the latter part of May, the members of the Shell Committee had not given up the idea of having time fuses manufactured in Canada by Canadian manufacturers, or having them manufactured there, in part at least by American companies, who would ultimately establish their manufacturing in Canada. We are not, we think, called upon to express an opinion as to whether the view that was taken by Col. Carnegie and the Shell Committee was a sound view, but the decision of the committee is not fairly open to adverse criticism, and there can be no doubt that it was honestly arrived at; and it is equally clear, when all the circumstances are considered, that it cannot be said to have been unreasonable. In our judgment, the members of the Shell committee would have assumed a grave responsibility and would have expressed themselves to severe criticism, if the opinion of their expert adviser, which ultimately carried the judgment, had been disregarded, and the contracts had been given to Canadian manufacturers, and their efforts to produce the fuses had resulted in failure."

Failed to Read Cable With Care "It is plain that the difficulty the Shell Committee found itself in after the receipt of the cable of May 28th, which was explicitly required at least one third of the complete rounds to be supplied with time fuses, had been examined with care. And we think it regrettable, especially in view of Col. Watt's letter of fourth day of June, that before finally concluding the contracts of the 19th of June, 1915, Col. Carnegie did not inform the other members of the shell committee and Col. Watt in particular of the fact that these contracts provided for the making, 1,666,666 fuses of a kind which could be produced in Canada. The explanation of Col. Carnegie for giving to the American Ammunition Company, the contract for the manufacture of 1,666,666 of these fuses, which were required by the

There has been a strong agitation in Italy for some time for the breaking of all relations with Germany. The curious situation caused by Italy being at war with Austria while nominally at peace with Germany, was emphasized by an agreement between Rome and Berlin, wherein all rights of the citizens of one country domiciled in the other, were to be respected. On July 16 this agreement was denounced by Italy on the ground it was not being observed by Germany. If war is now declared, Italian troops may be sent to the western front, according to the expectations expressed in London and Paris.

Regarding Graze Fuse "What we have said as to the time fuse does not apply to the graze fuse. It is undoubted that that type of fuse could have been produced in Canada within the time required by Canadian manufacturers, as has been demonstrated by what they, and especially the Russel Motor Car Company, have since done. "The explanation of Col. Carnegie for giving to the American Ammunition Company, the contract for the manufacture of 1,666,666 of these fuses, which were required by the

had been sunk by a German submarine, but Turkey later accepted the responsibility, declaring that the ship did not fly the Red Cross flag and was mistaken for a transport. On July 9 the Yperites, which took the place of the Portugal was torpedoed and sent to the bottom while on her way to Batum to embark wounded soldiers. American Boat is Captured On Its Way From Philadelphia to Sweden and Runs Foul of Germany. By Special Wire to the Courier. London, July 21.—The American Schooner Prince Valdemar has been captured by a German warship, while on its way from Philadelphia to Sweden with a cargo of oil, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, quoting the Copenhagen Politikon. The schooner was taken into Swinemunde. The only American schooner of this name which is listed here, belongs to George W. McNear of San Francisco. The McNear firm is one of those included in the recent British blacklist.

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SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST LAND REGULATIONS. THE sole head of a family, or male over 18 years of age, may homestead a quarter-section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, or British Columbia, provided he is a Canadian citizen, or the son of a Canadian citizen, or a person who has been domiciled in Canada for one year immediately preceding the date of his application. The land must be in a certain district, and must be of a certain size. The homesteader must reside on the land for six months in each year, and must improve it. The land is free of charge, but the homesteader must pay for the survey and the registration of his claim. The land is subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act, and the regulations thereunder.

WATER WORKS NOTICE HOURS FOR SPRINKLING LAWS. No person or persons shall be allowed to sprinkle, or use in any manner whatsoever, the water supplied by the Board of Water Commissioners upon Lawns, Gardens, Yards or Grounds of any description, except between the hours of 6 and 8:30 o'clock p.m., on Lawns up to and including 5,000 square feet on Lawns over that amount from 5 to 8:30 o'clock p.m., and any person wishing to use the water on their Lawns or Gardens in the morning in place of the evening may do so between the hours of 6 and 8 o'clock a.m., by giving notice to that effect in writing to the Secretary. City time to govern in all cases. It must, however, be clearly understood that the water cannot be used on Lawns or Grounds both morning and evening. FRED W. FRANK, Secretary, Water Commissioners' Office, Brantford, July 8, 1916.

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Austria Wants More Details (Bulletin) Washington, July 21.—The state department to-day received from Austria-Hungary, through Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna, a request for additional details regarding the attack by an Austrian submarine upon the American tank steamer Petrolite. Mr. Penfield's despatch gave no indication as to whether the Vienna Government intended to comply with the American demands for an apology, punishment of the submarine commander and reparation for the damage done by the submarine's shell fire. A BERLIN STORY. By Special Wire to the Courier. Berlin, July 21.—By wireless to the Northern Adriatic on July 15 of two submarines, one of them Italian, by Austro torpedo boats, is announced in official communication received here to-day from Vienna. William Gray, M.P., Conservative member for London, left for an American health resort critical ill. He has been on the verge of collapse from a nervous breakdown.

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