

me. The Munitions Board is not very ready to give us information; I do not think we should hesitate to stand upon our rights in regard to this matter.

Sir Robert Borden: I was not asking the hon. gentleman to depart from any rights. I was merely asking, as a matter of courtesy, if he would have any objection to sending over the agreement he has read.

Now, they say that an equivocation is worse than a falsehood.

Mr. Kyte: We have sent over one document already.

If the inference from that is not that he was reading from an agreement, I do not understand the use of the English language. Further on he speaks of a contract with the Electrolytic Metals Company, of which I never have heard that I am aware of; and then he goes on to say:

I have here a summary of the amount that was actually divided between Yoakum, Lignanti, and Allison.

Then he went on to read a list of commissions that, I understand, turned the head of the House of Commons, the figures were so magnificently large. All rainbow! I am assured by my counsel, who has been in New York awaiting my arrival, that he has examined these, and that not one dollar of this stuff has ever been divided or ever will be divided.

After referring to a contract with one of the ammunition companies, in regard to which I know nothing, the hon. gentleman speaks of the Edwards Valve Manufacturing Company, a matter that will come before the commission, and then he goes on:

Out of a contract negotiated between the Canadian Vickers and Allison for 500,000 rifles, known as the Allison Southern rifle deal for \$8,500,000, Yoakum and Allison receive \$625,000.

I am informed that it is unlikely that one dollar was ever received by them, or that one dollar will ever be received by them. He says:

Then, out of a contract negotiated between the Canadian Vickers and J. W. Allison to sell 140,000 rifles, and known as the Allison Southern Rifle deal, Allison and Yoakum receive \$1.25 per rifle, or \$175,000, less one-eighth paid to Lignanti.

Not one dollar has ever been received or ever will be received. And yet a gentleman, representing a free constituency in the Dominion of Canada, knowing that he had no data whereon to make these statements, stands up here and makes to this House and this country these abominable mis-statements.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I am afraid the hon. gentleman is exceeding the rules of debate.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I accept the ruling. I retract the word "abominable." The hon. gentleman goes on to refer to a contract for 2,500 tons of picric acid, which, he figures, paid a commission of \$262,500. Not one dollar was ever contracted for, not one dollar was ever received for this contract. This House and this country are told that these men pocketed these huge sums, and there is not a particle of truth in the statement.

Then, the Finance Minister (Sir Thomas White) speaks. They even wakened him up with the sound of these big figures—and he does not deal in small sums. They roused him from his slumbers, and he asked a question:

Sir Thomas White: Would my hon. friend state the contracts from which these commissions are to be derived?

And the answer of the hon. member for Richmond followed, and will be found at page 2378 of Hansard:

Mr. Kyte: I have read them.

Sir Thomas White: Are they contracts of the Shell Committee?

Mr. Kyte: Not all of them.

Sir Thomas White: My hon. friend will realize the difficulty of following such a complicated statement as this.

I should think so.

Sir Thomas White: Does my hon. friend suggest that the commissions to which he has been referring are to be derived under contracts with the Shell Committee?

Mr. Kyte: Not all of them; I think there are three with the Shell Committee.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Kyte), as reported at page 2380, says:

The hon. member for Carleton found fault not only as to non-deliveries, but as to the prices being exorbitant and altogether unjustifiable.

Let me point out that there is only one firm on the continent of North America that has been able to compete with these two firms that began under such adverse conditions. I have read the great list of other firms that have not yet delivered one solitary fuse. And as to the prices, so far as the No. 80 British fuse is concerned, the hon. gentleman cannot find a firm in the United States or Canada to take a contract and guarantee deliveries, in lots of a million, at the price accepted by these concerns. The American fuse is 75 cents to \$1 cheaper than the No. 80 British fuse—these are time fuses I am speaking of. In regard