

ANSWER:

Mr. Tenant (Under Secretary of State for War).

It is necessary that the entrenchment implement should be carried on the person, and as the Canadian troops had no means of doing this with their spade, the Service pattern with the appropriate fitment was issued to them. (See British Parliamentary debates, Thursday March 11th, 1915).

The fact is, the Government purchased 25,000 at a cost of \$33,750; money practically thrown away as the shovels as shown above were discarded by the British Government as unfit for service. General Sam Hughes stated however, that the Highland Brigade took 600 shovels without handles to the front. Giving General Hughes the benefit of this doubt, that 600 of the shovels were used, it shows conclusively that the country had thrown away 24,400 shovels at a loss of \$30,940.

LOSS TO THE COUNTRY ON SHOVELS \$30,940.

Motor Trucks

The evidence given before the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons respecting the purchase of Motor Trucks for the use of the soldiers was of a most interesting character. We shall not attempt to reproduce it because it is altogether too voluminous and much of it is technical. We shall try to give a fair summary of the situation as disclosed.

It appears that two years before the War broke out, the Militia Department purchased, through representations made by one Mr. McQuarrie from Wylie, Limited, of Ottawa, three Gramm Motor Trucks. On this sale to the Department, McQuarrie received a commission of \$1200 for which he gave a receipt to Wylie Limited which read as follows:

"Received from Wylie Limited on April 22nd, 1912, \$1200, for my influence with Col. Sam Hughes, Minister of Department of Militia and Defence in securing from the Department an order for three Gramm Motor Trucks. This is in accordance with agreement with your Company, February 19th, 1912.

(Signed) J. H. McQuarrie.

Mr. McQuarrie, it is well known, is a protege and political henchman of the Minister of Militia. At one time he was a lay-preacher, at another, he was a chauffeur; but always a strong helper of the Major General at election times in his riding.

When the War broke out McQuarrie appeared on the scene as a Motor Truck Agent and sold the Department eight trucks manufactured by the Russell Motor Truck Car Company at \$1650 each equal to \$13,200, for which he admitted he received a commission, probably 10%.