

HUGHES IS ACCUSED OF FEARING CHARGES

Carvell Declares Militia Minister Slipped Away to New York.

BENNETT'S FINE SPEECH

Carry Man's Eloquence Stirred Conservatives to Great Enthusiasm.

(Continued From Page 1.)

Mr. Sam Hughes was playing sick in New York, trying to keep away from the public accounts committee, and would be closeted with the minister at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. Mr. Carvell, who had been away for a long time, returned to the city and was running away from the light, and said that he had gone to New York to confer with J. Wesley Allison and others of that ilk who were mixed up in the deal of \$22,000,000 had gone to American instead of Canadian manufacturers.

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Bennett's Strong Defence. Mr. Bennett therefore had his work cut out for him, but he defended the government in an eloquent speech, which stated a good case and aroused his hearers to great enthusiasm. He declared that every dollar spent by the shell committee was money that belonged to the British Government.

Canada, he said, would never be put upon to pay a cent for any munitions purchased by Britain in this country. He deplored anything being done at this time to injure the reputation of the Canadian manufacturer. He protested against stopping in the middle of the war to hold a post-mortem, which could just as easily be postponed until the war was over. Now and then he shot a barb of ridicule or denunciation at Dr. Ferguson, Mr. Carvell and the Liberal opposition that delighted his Conservative colleagues. He closed with an eloquent appeal for national unity in this hour of peril.

The debate will be continued on Monday.

Carvell Attacks Hughes. Carvell opened with a slashing attack upon the minister of militia, J. Wesley Allison, who is now playing sick in New York and refuses to appear before the public accounts committee. He has been well enough, however, for the last three nights to go from his hotel to the Grand Central Station, reserve a sleeper, and put his travelling bag in the pullman car of the Ottawa train. Then just before the train starts he jumps off with the bag and goes back to his hotel. He probably thinks he is being watched and he is not mistaken in that regard, but he is trying to fool us about his movements and whereabouts.

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PRESENTING COLORS TO 75TH BATTALION

RECEIVING the colors presented yesterday to the 75th Overseas Battalion, soon to leave Toronto. The ceremony, which took place in front of the parliament buildings, was most impressive. The upper picture shows Lieut. Ben. Wright receiving the colors from Sir John Hendrie, and the lower, Sir John and Mayor Church, who donated the colors. Additional photographs of the ceremony are on other pages.

War and Graft Inseparable. With the terrible issues of the war still undecided in the scales at Verdun, was this a time for internal strife? If Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier Mr. Bennett had no doubt but that he would say that all investigations must be postponed until after the war. All wars, we should remember, were accompanied with terrible grafting. Marlborough, perhaps the greatest of all English generals, while winning victories at the front found time to defraud the government. Mr. Bennett, therefore, would neither defend nor excuse the shell committee. If they were guilty of wrongdoing they should and would be severely punished as soon as the war was over.

Laurier's Record Assailed. After eulogizing Sir Sam Hughes and the prime minister, Mr. Bennett reminded the house that Sir Wilfrid Laurier as prime minister had condoned many notorious frauds, such as the Arctic expedition and the western timber limits, and had permitted a follower to sit in the house who owed his seat to stolen ballots. Surely he should not now be so eager for an investigation in the midst of a war. We should all get together, Mr. Bennett declared, and fight the Germans instead of quarreling among ourselves. We should do everything to boost Canada instead of vilifying the manufacturers of the Dominion.

Committee Not Capable. When Mr. Bennett sat down at 8 o'clock he received a remarkable ovation from the government side of the house, and a large crowd gathered to hear the conclusion of his speech when the house reassembled at 8 o'clock. Mr. Bennett, after discussing the charge respecting the Canadian Cement Company dealing with the shell committee, declared that for the sake of argument he was quite willing to admit substantially all the charges brought against the committee. At most they only showed negligence or incapacity. If any investigation were possible, or were necessary it could wait until after the war. But Lloyd George, the British minister of munitions, had declared himself entirely satisfied with the work of the committee. If the Canadian Parliament ordered an investigation it would do so as a mere outsider and an "intermeddling busybody."

Post-Mortem Inadvisable. Not one dollar of the money spent for shells in Canada was Canadian money. It was all British funds, and he did not believe that Canadian contractors had no plants or facilities, but the contracts were sublet to other firms in which Col. J. Wesley Allison was financially interested.

Allison "Playing Sick." "It is this 'J. Wesley Allison' exclaimed Mr. Carvell, "who is now playing sick down in New York and refuses to appear before the public accounts committee. He has been well enough, however, for the last three nights to go from his hotel to the Grand Central Station, reserve a sleeper, and put his travelling bag in the pullman car of the Ottawa train. Then just before the train starts he jumps off with the bag and goes back to his hotel. He probably thinks he is being watched and he is not mistaken in that regard, but he is trying to fool us about his movements and whereabouts."

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THE DUTY OF ITALIANS RESIDENT IN CANADA

Prominent Citizens Attended Meeting in St. George's Hall Last Night.

Under the auspices of the Red Cross Society a meeting of prominent Toronto Italians was held in St. George's Hall, 210 St. George Street, last night. It was attended by Dr. Marino, Italian consul; G. Attilla, president of the Umberto Society; G. Battista, president of the Victor Emmanuel Society; A. Gatto, president of the Triamaria Society; and Dr. Harley Smith, former Italian consul.

An interesting address on "Italy and the War" was delivered by G. Cusi. Other speakers, including L. Molla and V. Mato, pointed out the duty of Italian residents in Canada to the allies and urged them to do all in their power to give assistance in every way possible for an early termination of the war in their favor. An appeal was made for monthly subscriptions for the Red Cross Society.

The acting minister reported wonderful increase in the mileage of the government system and at the same time a year of the greatest prosperity in the history of our national transportation facilities.

Mileage Greatly Increased. Since the prorogation of parliament last the government railway system has been greatly increased. At that time it consisted of the Intercolonial, some branch lines and the operation of the transcontinental between Lewis and Moncton. Since then there has been absorbed into the government the Transcontinental Railway from Moncton to Winnipeg, the Lake Superior section of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and two additional lines in the Province of New Brunswick. The total mileage of the government system is now 4,057 miles.

The earnings of the I. C. R. to the end of December were increased by \$1,191,000, while the increase in working expenses was only \$24,000. The estimated earnings of the road for the year are \$14,123,264, and estimated expense \$13,356,754, showing a surplus of \$766,510. During the year the expenditure upon capital account was about \$7,500,000.

The minister stated that to facilitate the movement of western grain the government had established a rate of six cents per bushel for wheat from Armstrong, a point on the National Transcontinental directly north of Fort William, to Montreal and Quebec, thus making a ten cent rate from the head of navigation to tide water at the ports of Montreal and Quebec. Rates had also been reduced from Quebec to the Atlantic ports.

Up to Sept. 1 the gross earnings on the Transcontinental from Moncton and Winnipeg to Port William were \$2,363,193, while the operating expenses were \$1,375,994, to which should be added the rental of \$35,000 for the Lake Superior section.

Referring to the Hudson Bay Railway Dr. Reid said that the length of the line from Le Pas to Port Nelson will be 424 miles and of this the grade has been completed for 278 miles. Steel has been laid for 242 miles, or to the Nelson River, over which the bridge is now being constructed, and will be completed in April, when track work will be resumed.

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In concluding, Dr. Reid said that the I. C. R. section of the Trent Canal would be open for business in the spring of 1917, connecting Peterboro with the great lakes, vessels having a draught of eight feet.

With regard to the waterpower along the Trent, he declared that the late government had alienated the very valuable powers from the people and had leased them to private corporations, whereas the Ontario Government, as they should be developed, or furnishing power as cheaply as the people had expected. He said that negotiations were now being conducted between the Government and the lessees and if these negotiations were not successful, he would recommend to the government the cancellation of the leases and a new deal all around in the interests of the people.

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FEDERAL RAILWAYS DOING BIG BUSINESS

Intercolonial Shows Surplus for Year of More Than Million.

GRAIN RATES REDUCED

N. T. R. Has Surplus for Operation to Date—Big Wheat Movement.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Ont., March 9.—A banner year for the Intercolonial Railway, a surplus in the operations up to date of the National Transcontinental, a considerable movement of grain over the national road and a marked reduction in the rate on wheat were among the outstanding features of the annual statement of the railways and canals department delivered in the house of commons tonight by the acting minister, Hon. J. D. Reid.

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Referring to the work on the Welland Canal, the minister said that it had been pushed less vigorously than anticipated on account of the war. One small section had been completed and at \$8,000 less than at the estimated cost.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. LONDON, March 9.—Bennett Goldney addressed a question to Mr. Tennant, under secretary of war, in the house of commons tonight regarding the "sufferings of convalescents undergoing repairs, having been damaged to the extent of \$10,000. It was then ordered to proceed to Alexandria, and from there to Salonika."

At a meeting of the Street Railway Commission, the employees had a deputa- tion present renewing their request for last week for an increase in wages and stools for motormen. The commissioners promised an increase of wages in a few weeks, the latter hours agitation will be dropped by the men for the present.

WAR UPON PORTUGAL DECLARED BY GERMANY

Passports Were Handed to Portuguese Minister on Wednesday Afternoon.

DUE TO SHIP SEIZURES

Series of Breaches of Neutrality by Portugal is Alleged.

(Continued From Page 1.)

Passports Given. A Berlin despatch tonight says Ambassador Rosen at Lisbon has been instructed to demand his passports. The Portuguese ambassador Dr. Sidonio Pires at Berlin has been given his passports.

A despatch to the Havas Agency of Paris, from Lisbon states that the exodus of German families from Portugal continues. The minister of marine, a despatch adds, has published an order congratulating the commandant, the officers and sailors who seized the German ships for the manner in which they took their positions and utilized vessels in the Tagus River.

Berlin Announcement. BERLIN, March 9.—By wireless to Saville.—Germany declared war on Portugal at 3.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon and handed his passports to the Portuguese minister.

"The German Government, therefore, considers itself from this time in war with the Portuguese Government," is the conclusion of a declaration handed today by the German minister at Lisbon to the Portuguese Government and in Berlin to the Portuguese minister, the Overseas News Agency announcement states.

"The German declaration," says the news agency, emphasizes the fact that this step was made necessary by the recent illegal seizures of German ships in Portuguese ports, which is the gravest sort of breach of neutrality and of special treaties. Germany, therefore, is obliged to state her former attitude of forbearance which she had maintained because of Portugal's awkward situation.

Breaches of Neutrality. "The declaration enumerates a long series of breaches of neutrality by the Portuguese Government such as the permission of free passage to German troops thru the colony of Mozambique, the permission given to English men-of-war to use Portuguese ports, the time exceeding that given neutrals, the permission given the English navy to use Madeira as a naval base, actual engagements between Portuguese and German troops on the frontier of German Southwest Africa and Angola; frequent insults to the German nation by members of the Portuguese Parliament who never were reprimanded."

"The declaration further points out that the seizure of German ships in neutral Portuguese ports on Feb. 23 was an act against the law and the treaties concluded between Germany and Portugal."

Action Was Hasty. "The declaration states," says the news agency, "that according to the treaty