

character of the statements made by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Kyte). I had expected something really important. It is no part of a member's duty, nor is it right, to impugn the motives of another man, and I do not do so. But I had a perfect right to inquire for my own satisfaction what was the moving spirit behind the hon. gentleman's speech. Was it to ascertain the truth concerning this matter? If so, all he had to do was to communicate with Colonel David Carnegie or General Bertram of the Shell Committee, and he would have his questions answered in five minutes—answered truthfully, and answered to anybody's satisfaction. Was it to obtain notoriety? If so, he has had it, but it will be short-lived. Was it to injure the Tories?—those horrible Tories! If so, I have every reason to believe that he will fail in his object. Was it to assist the cause of human liberty? I want to point out to that hon. member that only truth and right directing a powerful attack can win for that cause. Or is it merely petty party parochial politics? I leave the public to come to their own conclusion on that subject. I cannot conceive of his object in trying to take advantage of the high-strung nervousness of the Canadian public, whose gallant sons are fighting and dying for the great cause. However, he is responsible to his own conscience and to his constituents.

Now, what are the conditions surrounding the shell contracts? At first no one could be induced to touch them. The horde of self-seekers, who afterwards came to the front, would not for love or money come out and help on the cause at the beginning. Bankers interfered who subsequently kept pestering General Bertram and the Shell Committee in order to bolster up little side-shows here and there all through the country who wanted contracts for shells. Prominent business men who had capital invested in factories and the machinery all ready could not be induced for love or money to go into the manufacture of shells and similar commodities at the beginning of the war. They were all poverty-stricken, nervous, and afraid to step in and help the Empire, though they would not take any risk in doing so. There was want of confidence on the part of capital; there was uncertainty as to the duration of the war; there was lack of proper equipment; there was a necessity for procuring the raw material; there was an absence of skilled labour; there were hard times; there were nervous people who suffered from lack of

confidence; and there was a great need to remove all these depressing influences that were abroad throughout the country. But there were men who were not afraid. A few stepped into the breach; the manufacture of shells was begun; the money commenced to circulate; and it was found that Canadians could rise to the situation and play their part as well as the inhabitants of any other country in the upbuilding of the Empire and the development and protection of human liberty.

The next step was when confidence was regained. Every one wanted to get into the game. People talked in millions instead of thousands, and there were agents and promoters everywhere. That matter, however, has been touched upon by me in this House already during the present session, and I will not repeat what I said before.

As I understand the statements of the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Kyte) and those of the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell)—I trust that if I refer more to the hon. member for Richmond than to the hon. member for Carleton, the latter will not feel slighted—they are that a contract was made for time fuses with people who had no intention of producing fuses and who will never produce them; that \$1,500,000 was paid to promoters who divided that sum amongst themselves; and that Great Britain will lose that money. The fact is—the details will follow later on—that the two companies with whom the contracts were made are now employing between them nearly 8,000 men, and that they have invested in plant, machinery, and materials fully \$6,000,000. While they have undoubtedly met with great difficulties in the production of fuses, they have, with the exception of one other company, done better in that work than any other company on the continent of North America. So much so is that the case that the British Government, through Morgan and Company of New York, have recently given one of those firms a new contract for 4,000,000 additional time fuses and the other an order for 1,000,000 time fuses. Every dollar of the money advanced was protected by the guarantee of the strongest trust company on the continent of North America, namely, the Guaranty Trust Company of North America, and incidentally, I may say, by the fortunes of the men behind those companies. When I state that the American Tobacco Company, the members of which are worth upwards of \$500,000,000 on their own personal accounts, were behind one concern,