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## THE FINDING OF THE ALLISON-HUGHES COMMISSION.

Sir, Sam Hughes, minister of militia, said that the defunct shell committee was "his baby" and that Hon. Col. Allison was his "lifelong friend" and "the soul of honor." Chief Justice W. R. Meredith and Mr. Justice Duff have given a verdict to the effect that the action of Allison in receiving any remuneration for his services as a purchasing agent and personal representative of Sir Sam Hughes "could not be either justified or excused."

The finding of the commission states that "as far as the evidence appears" Sir Sam had no connection with wrong-doing. That is as far as the legal verdict may proceed on the facts that were adduced for the enlightenment of the judges. The "See Allison" dictum of Col. Carnegie and the reference to the necessity of arranging matters with the men "higher up" did not constitute evidence upon which a condemnation of the minister of militia might be built by the tribunal. So far as the legal investigation of these charges is concerned, no blame is attached to Sir Sam Hughes directly through the conviction of the man he stood sponsor for.

But where does Sir Sam Hughes stand as far as public opinion is affected? Can he, a responsible minister of the crown, be held blameless for the guilt of his own honorary colonel? Can he, who assumed responsibility for the actions of Allison, and staked his own reputation upon the integrity of that Allison, tear up the promissory note he gave the Canadian people? If Hon. Col. Allison had been held guiltless by his judges, Sir Sam Hughes could today have turned upon his critics and his accusers and publicly scoured them. But if he were with Allison to the death, as he proclaimed so often, so dramatically, he must stand sponsor now when his protégé is shamed and labelled a "grafter" in the sight of all Canada.

Sir Sam Hughes is in the position of a corporation purchasing agent, who called in a friend to assist him in making great purchases. He informed his employers that the friend would not take a single cent for his services, and that the friend was saving millions for the corporation. But when it is suddenly revealed that the friend was accepting huge commissions and dividing them between his and the agent's friends, the purchasing agent admits the offence, but declares that his friend was entitled to the share he had received of the money which the firm had expended. Add to this hypothesis the fact of the shell contract—that in this case there were other firms seeking contracts, which were in the field fairly and openly and ready to take contracts at lower prices than the friend could secure.

Could any purchasing agent go before a board of directors and hope for justification of such a course? Can Sir Sam Hughes come to the Canadian people, who are the "shareholders" of his "company," taking hold of affairs for lack of a competent directorate, and ask them to place their "O. K." on such methods?

It is very doubtful that the purchasing agent could be brought into court on a specific charge and made to suffer for his friend's deed. There is no evidence that he received any part of the commission, secured by the friend. There is only the absolute fact in solid adamant that he stood sponsor for the man who secured an enormous commission at the expense of the firm.

The Canadian "shareholders" will have no more faith in such a purchasing agent. They cannot afford to entrust their affairs—for the affairs of the Empire are theirs—to a man who knows so little of the character of his friends that he permits them to become the vampires of graft that drain the financial life-blood of his employers.

Sir Sam Hughes is adjudged innocent of all wrong-doing. He was a sheep among wolves. But as well have a school boy with a million dollars among a set of thugs, as a minister of militia whose trusted friend is shown to be guilty of conduct that "could not either be justified or excused."

To make further use of the purchasing agent metaphor, the old shell committee is shown as a board of directors which blundered to the extent of permitting one contract to be awarded at at least one million dollars in excess of a figure considered reasonable in view of the evidence. The Imperial Munitions Board—a new directorate—saved this money by prompt cancellation of contracts.

The Liberal party is vindicated in its decision to hunt wartime graft to its lair and slay it with the sword of truth. Mr. Kyte, who brought the charges, and Mr. Carvell, who fought tirelessly for a complete unfolding of the facts, deserve the commendation of Canadians for their service, a service, however, which they would have been derelict in refusing. It was in the broader sense of Canadianism they acted, and the whole of Canada will see to it that they have not labored in vain to reveal the worst corruption shown in the nation's history. Better still, Canada will demand that the curtain be lifted to its full height so that all "behind the scenes" operations may be revealed. The half has not been told.

## IN THE TRENCHES.

Scene—In the Canadian trenches. Dramatis Personae—Sir Sam Hughes and Lieut.-Col. —.

Sir Sam: Well, old Sport, we are here at last.

Col.: Yes, Sir Sam.

Sir Sam: Somebody said I was neither useful nor ornamental. We'll show 'em.

Col.: Yes, Sir Sam.

Sir Sam: Gee! here comes a bunch of Boches.

Col.: And we are the only ones here.

Sir Sam: Never fear!

Col.: Remember what you said at London, Sam?

Sir Sam: What was that? (Guess we better shoot back into the second line.)

Col.: About you and I holding off a regiment of Germans with a couple of Ross rifles.

Sir Sam: Yes—puff—puff—but the English triflers took the Ross away from us. No one will expect us to make good with these phoney Lee-

Enfields. The Germans bribed someone to make the change. Worse than the Ypres salient.

Col.: No doubt of it, Sam.

Sir Sam: What's that! The Germans driven back! Don't believe it! Couldn't be done with Lee-Enfields! Keep on for the rear! It's all piffle!

THE CLOCK SET BACK.

LONDON, which greeted daylight-

saving as a panacea for summer

ills, has turned back the hands of the

clock. On the editor's desk of The

Advertiser are several literary straws

which show the way the wind is blow-

ing. But the space they would have

occupied may now be put to other

uses.

Many Londoners were in favor of

continuation, but an overwhelming ma-

jority of working people, who expressed

themselves publicly, showed that the

disruption of household routine was

working serious hardships. The city

as a whole will have an opportunity of

declaring itself by means of a plebiscite

# Mother Asked Her To Bring Several Stones so That They Could Cross, but the Powerful Katrinka Thought One Would Be Enough.

BY FONTAINE FOX



at the next municipal elections, and it

is safe to predict that unless an active

organization is effected and a campaign

for Dominion-wide legislation com-

menced, there will be little sentiment

for a re-adoption of the system.

It was well that the city tested the

scheme. The Rotary Club was con-

scious of performing a public service,

from which all should benefit, and citi-

zens will lose no good-will toward that

organization for the failure of the

scheme to hold public opinion. The city

approached the matter with an open

mind, gave the system a fair test and

now—well, the children will be able

to get to sleep on time, anyway.

The Saxon Government is reported to

be contemplating the introduction of

"beerless days." Now the German

philosophers will know what war is.

The German people is given as a

bride to death, given away by the

kaiser. The happy pair are being

showered with confetti, varying in size

from three to eighteen inches.

German prisoners are said to enjoy

particularly the white bread given them

by wheat-growing France and wheat-

importing Britain. Even in peace time

the masses get little white bread to

eat. That's German kultur, again, you

see.

The Lokalanzeiger of Berlin now

says that the great scheme for the in-

vasion of France through Belgium was

developed by the late deceased Gen.

von Moltke over ten years ago.

So much for the theory of Belgium's

collusion with Great Britain, or of

Germany's sudden imperative need.

There is a great opportunity for

heroic young men at the American

Atlantic beaches. Any fine morning,

when the sharks are about, beautiful

and daring damsels may be rescued

from the jaws of death. The shark

raid should be a great attraction for

all the fair and the brave, who would

deserve them.

How many German-Americans would

go to fight for Germany at this juncture

if given a free pass by Great

Britain? It is said that the Hun vari-

ety of German-American is commonly

several generations removed from the

fatherland and is proportionately senti-

mental rather than sincere in his de-

votion to the modern Attila.

And to think he never told me any-

thing about it, the money he got. I

am glad he got the money, good old

Wes., but to think he should keep

his old pal that trusted him and helped

him entirely in the dark. That hurts

me. A stranger to my bosom—and my

friends since we were boys. Oh me,

oh my—(From diary of Sir Sam, July,

1916).

"We are more proud of our young

men than our young women," said the

Bishop of Oxford, lately in London,

England. He went on to complain

that "when it had been suggested that

it is the mothers' fault that the daugh-

ters of fourteen, fifteen and sixteen

have not some sort of order and dis-

cipline, they almost laughed in one's

face." The good bishop must have

fallen in with some desperate hoydens

who ought to come and live in Canada,

where the girls are very orderly, due

to no doubt to their mothers' excellent

care. Or is it Chinese repression that

he wants?

## The Advertiser's Daily Short Story

(Copyright, 1916, by McClure Newspaper-Syndicate.)

## A Fight For Happiness

BY SUSAN E. CLAGETT.

Tom Marshall knocked the ashes from his pipe and dropped it into his pocket before answering the question of his friend, then he said deliberately:

"I had nothing to offer, Jack. Naturally, under those circumstances I did not ask her."

"What fools you conscientious men make of yourselves," the other said irritably. "Did it never occur to you that you owed her something after such a summer? Why, man alive, you were always together. If you were not riding you were rowing or walking or sitting on the beach. If she had been like the rest of the crowd it would have made no difference, but there are girls and girls, and Sarah Norris is one by herself."

There was a note in his voice that made Marshall look at him with thoughtful eyes.

"You, too, Jack?"

"Why not? She refused me long ago. I took it pretty hard at the time. Then Kate came into my life. She knows and doesn't mind and Sarah and I are the best of friends. Because I know her so well, know how abhorrent to her is this dallying over the most sacred thing that can come into the lives of men and women, I am disgusted at the stand you have taken. Her money should make no difference, but it would seem you put it and your pride before her happiness and your own."

"Her happiness? I never thought she cared."

"What an ass you are! Did you expect her to proclaim her feelings for your benefit?"

"No. I never thought she cared," he repeated slowly.

His friend looked at him in exasperation. "How old are you, Tom? One would think you had spent your life in the backwoods and knew nothing of women."

"I know very little. You forget the life of an engineer is not spent in drawing-rooms. Last summer was my first I saw the best of friends. Because I know her so well, know how abhorrent to her is this dallying over the most sacred thing that can come into the lives of men and women, I am disgusted at the stand you have taken. Her money should make no difference, but it would seem you put it and your pride before her happiness and your own."

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## STORIES OF BRITISH NAVAL HEROISM

## "Now My Lads, Aboard"

Written for The Advertiser by Judge Barron of Stratford

Dedicated to the Boy Scouts of Canada.

The year of 1812 is a year to be well remembered by Canada. It occurs the fact that when once England becomes involved in war, Canada must play a part. This is as well known, Canada did, especially on the Great Lakes. The year opened with a new shuffle of the political cards and another foe entered the field against Great Britain.

The United States, justly or unjustly, had become first irritated, then incensed, at the manner in which they were then being treated by Great Britain. In order to hurt France, with whom Great Britain at the time was at war, the latter nation grievously interfered with the trade between the two countries. The effect upon United States exports was disastrous, and this circumstance might well be referred to, as an historical answer, to those who insist that we necessarily lose the right for the producer of exports. The trade of the United States with France was practically ruined. Then Great Britain claimed the right to search American vessels to discover if British seamen were on board. If they were, England would impress them.

But it must be confessed Great Britain often did not stop at this. Our ships not infrequently were seized and British subjects, sailing on U. S. ships, but American sailors also, and in discriminating it has to be admitted our ships were not at times as careful as they might have been. This practice more than anything else aroused the most furious indignation, for, apart from the question of right and wrong, it frequently left American ships unmanned, and therefore less able to meet the perils of the sea. On the other hand, the U. S. frigate President had the previous year fired upon H.M.S. Little Belt, doing a great deal of damage and causing the loss of many lives. It was claimed at the time that the British sloop of war fired first, but this contention was subsequently abandoned, and eventually the Government at Washington apologized. An apology, when made on demand, often disturbs the person who gives it, and so it was with a nation, and so it was on this occasion with the United States. Provoked at being caught in the wrong, and incensed at having to apologize, they lost no time in preparing for war, and on the 18th of June it was openly declared.