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ONE MILLION WEEKLY FOR SHELL MAKING

Sixty thousand artisans are employed in Canada, drawing weekly wages of \$1,000,000 in 247 factories, manufacturing shells for the war arena. Orders for 9,000,000 shells have been placed here by the shell committee and for 8,100,000 cartridge cases, fuses, primers, and friction tubes. For these contracts orders have been placed for 170,000 tons of steel, 30,000 tons of lead and several thousand tons of other material. Canada will be shortly turning out 50,000 shells per day.

These facts were given by Colonel Alexander Bertram, chairman of the shell committee appointed by the Dominion Government to superintend the manufacture of munitions of war, in an address to the delegates to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association convention at Toronto last week. Colonel Bertram said:—

"Shortly after the war broke out the minister of militia received an order from the British Government for supplies of arms and ammunition. Contracts were placed for these both in Canada and the United States, and then came the request for 200,000 shrapnel shells, unloaded, in equal numbers of 15 and 18-pounders. Canada possesses in the city of Quebec a modern plant for the manufacture of shells, but its capacity is limited. It can only produce 75 shells per day, which we now see was quite inadequate to meet the demand. There was only one thing to do. The minister of militia conceived the idea of utilizing the engineering factories throughout the Dominion for shell manufacture, and to secure the co-operation of employers and employes in the engineering trades to take up this patriotic work.

"A committee was appointed to organize the movement throughout the Dominion. The members of this committee are: Messrs. Thos. Cantley, of New Glasgow; George W. Watts, Toronto; E. Carnegie, Welland; General T. Benson, master general of ordnance; Mr. J. W. Borden, chief accountant and paymaster-general; Col. Harston, and Col. Lafferty, the latter four representing the Department of Militia and Defence. I had the honor to be named chairman.

"As a direct outcome of the work of the shell committee a copper refinery in Canada will be made possible. Our experience in nine months has demonstrated the fact that the development of this industry in the Dominion, while it would undoubtedly benefit every manufacturer who uses copper, is above all things a military necessity. Canada will not have to remain long under the reproach of having to import its refined copper, and I can assure you of this, that within three or four months we expect to be making in this country, from the native product, all the copper bands required in the production of shells.

"It was agreed to supply all the component parts of shells free of charge to those manufacturers who would undertake the work of finishing and assembling the complete shells. In this way many of the smaller manufacturers were relieved of the financial burden of carrying a heavy stock of the raw materials, and which very largely contributed to the success of this huge undertaking. It was further decided to eliminate unhealthy competition by paying uniform price for the same article. An inspection company was chosen to deal with all shell components, thus relieving the assembling manufacturers of the responsibility of inspection, while at the same time satisfying the shell committee beyond question that the component parts of shells were correct in every particular before the finished article passed into the hands of the Government inspector.

"Starting with the first order for 200,000 shrapnel we have since placed orders aggregating 9,000,000 shells consisting of 15 and 18-pounder shrapnel; 18-pounder, 4.5 and 60-pounder high explosive shells. In addition we have placed orders for 100,000 cartridge cases, 5,000,000 fuses, 2,000,000 primers, and 1,000,000 friction tubes.

In no one single establishment in Canada except the Dominion Arsenal at Quebec, is the complete shell made. One hundred and thirty firms from Halifax to Vancouver are engaged in the work of machining and assembling. Others are occupied in the manufacture of blanks, bullets, discs, cartridge cases, buckshot, primers, tubes, tin cups for shrap-