SIR SAM HUGHES' STATEMENT IN COMMONS GIVES LIE DIRECT TO GRIT ALLEGATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

was greeted with applause and cheers when he arose at 3.15 and said: "Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the House, I desire to make a personal explanation." He related that prior to his departure from Ottawa for England on March 9 last he had told the Prime Minister and some others of his colleagues of the necessity for his visit to Europe. He had asked the Prime Minister to see Sir Wilfrid Laurier and ascertain if any question relating to the militia department which would require his presence in Ottawa was likely to arise. It was agreed that he should, himself, see the leader of the opposition. He had done so and he had also spoken to Mr. E. M. MacDonald, of Pictou, Mr. A. K. MacLean, of Halifax, and others and had enquired if there was any likelihood that anything would arise which would necessitate his remaining in Ottawa. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had said that he knew of nothing which would necessitate the presence of the minister of militia at home but had said he could not take the responsibility of speaking for all his followers. Other members of the opposition had spoken similarly.

He had, therefore, left for England. "It is needless to say," continued Sir Sam, "that I did not go duck hunting with a brass band and that I did not placard the fact that I was crossing the ocean. The statement was given out that I was going south, which was true. The day before I went away, the member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) was speaking. I had intimated to that gentleman that I was going away and those who remember that night will recall how his eye wandered to the clock. He was praying for 'night or Blencher.' (laughter.) He repeated himself over and over again. I was unkind enough to think he was killing time because it was known I was leaving next day at noon and it was the only chance I had to get at him. (laughter.) I asked him that night to finish his speech and I would be only too delighted to take what few minutes were necessary for a reply before I left. But he pleaded weariness, the sympathy of the speaker was granted him and he got leave to finish his speech next day."

Sir Sam said he would not refer to his visit to England or to the splendid work of the Canadian soldiers at the front, too many of whom were going down. When he had received a message that statements had been made in the House involving the honor of the shell committee and to that extent his own, he had taken the earliest available steamer and returned to Canada. "I was glad and I am glad of the opportunity to clear the atmosphere," he affirmed earnestly.

After thanking Hon. A. E. Kemp for his administration of the department of militia during the past six weeks, Sir Sam Hughes continued: "I have this to say that during my attendance at the sittings of the royal commission I shall do myself the honor, as is my custom, when temporarily absent to ask the prime minister to look after anything in connection with my department.

What Was Real Motive?

"On my return," he said, "I was surprised at the character of the statements made by the member for Richmond (Mr. Kyte.) I did expect something really important. It is no part of a member's duty or his right to impugn the motives of another member's action and I shall not do so. But I shall enquire what was the moving spirit behind that speech. Was it to get the truth? If it was, all the honorable member had to do was to communicate with Col. David Carnegie or Sir Alex. Bertram. Was it to gain notoriety? If it was, he has had it but it will be short. Was it to injure the Tory party, the horrible Tories? If it was I have every reason to believe he will fail.

"Was it in the cause of human liberty? I want to tell my honorable friend that only truth and right directing a powerful attack can win for that cause. Was it petty, parochial party politics? I leave the public to come to their own conclusion. Was it to take advantage of the feelings of the highly strung Canadian people whose sons are fighting in the trenches? However, he is responsible to his own conscience and to his own constituency."

The Minister of Militia said that at the outset no one could be induced to touch contracts for the manufacture of shells. "The horde of self-seekers who afterward came to the front could not be induced for love or money to help the cause in the beginning," he asserted. "Banks interfered who subsebuently pestered Gen. Bertram to bolster up little concerns all over the country. Concerns with the plant all ready could not be induced to come forward and help the Empire. There was uncertainty as to capital and as to the duration of the war and there was great need to remove depressing influences that were abroad in the community. But there were men who were not afraid. A few stepped into the breach and the manufacture of shells was begun; money began to circulate and they found that Canadians could play their part in that as well as in other directions. The next was the confident stage. Everybody wanted to get in. People talked in millions instead of thousands and there were agents and promoters everywhere."

Sir Sam understood Mr. Carvell to have alleged that contracts for fuses were let to parties who had no intention of making fuses and that millions were handed over and would be lost to Britain. "The fact is," proceeded the minister, "that the two companies with whom these contracts were made are now employing nearly 8,000 men and have invested in the plant and material about $6,000,000. They have done better in the production of fuses than any other companies on the continent of North America. So much is the case that the British government through Morgan and Company has recently given one company an additional contract for 4,000,000 time fuses and the other an additional contract for 1,000,000 time fuses. Every dollar advanced to these companies was protected by a guarantee bond from the strongest trust company in New York, the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, and, incidentally by the vast fortunes of the men behind them. When I say that the American Tobacco Company was behind one company and gentlemen having personal fortunes of up to ten million dollars were behind the other, it was no wonder the Guaranty Company was ready to guarantee the advances. The money went for the purpose for which it was intended for plant and materials. It may be noted that the advance in money to these companies was only 15 per cent. of the contracts whereas the usual advance through Morgan and Co. is 25 per cent. of the contract." Sir Sam admitted that in the light of later experience it might have been better to have undertaken the manufacture of fuses in Canada.

Regarding Col. Allison.

Sir Sam Hughes then spoke of Col. J. Wesley Allison. That gentleman, he said, was formerly associated with Vanderbilt's and with Dr. Webb on the New York Central Railway. He was, the minister thought, a purchasing agent. At all events he was at that time and still was respected in the United States. Sir Sam said that at the beginning of the war manufacturers in the United States were uncertin whether or not the then secretary of state, Wm. Jennings Bryan, would endeavor to prevent the delivery of war supplies from the United States to belligerent countries. Consequently every country which purchased supplies in the United States had to take the responsibility of getting the goods out of the country. "I was asked," continued the minister, "to look into this end of the game and I enlisted the services of Col. Allison. First the goods were shipped over to Canada by ferry but that could not handle the volume and whole train loads came in and by arrangements with the minister of customs these goods were admitted free and were shipped to the old country. Later through the instrumentality of this officer, it was discovered that there was no necessity for bringing those supplies through Canada. They were, therefore, shipped direct from the port of New York. So well was this managed that the colonial secretary, Mr. Harcourt, told me after this had been going on for a year, that they still thought the goods were going by the old route, through Canada. "When the shell committee had combed Canada from one end to the other," said the minister, "when I, myself, had at their request, asked fifty people to undertake the manufacture of fuses in Canada, because a shell without a fuse is useless, not one firm in Canada, with all due respect to Mr. T. A. Russell, could be induced to make fuses in this country. I know articles have been padded up and written but not one firm in Canada, not Mr. Russell, not Mr. Lloyd Harris, could be induced to make fuses in the Dominion. Once at the Chateau Laurier, when I had been begging Canadian manufacturers to make fuses and had been met with the statement that they could not possibly make them, I turned to Col. Allison and asked him if he could get capital to come in and make them. After he had asked for details and I said 'I don't know anything about it, ask Bertram.' Later, he came to me and mentioned a number of gentlemen. He spoke of Patterson, a most capable engineer, and Dr. Harris, who is a wealthy man in New York, and well known in Canada. At first the idea was to have the fuses made in Canada but there were no suitable buildings. It would have been necessary to build them from the foundation. Finally, I understand, it was decided as the British government was in a hurry to get the fuses to have them made in the United States in the meantime. I know nothing about Col. Allison's connection with these companies. I may say frankly that I think Col. Allison, if he did get anything out of these concerns, is as much entitled to it, because he has delivered some goods, as gentlemen who sell sausages, boots, leather, breeches and other commodities up and down the Dominion of Canada. (laughter.)

Reduced Price of Rifle Ammunition.

Sir Sam said that when revolvers, pistols, rifle ammunition and other war material were to be purchased he had again enlisted the services of Col. Allison. The price of rifle ammunition for the British government had been reduced from $42.50 a thousand rounds to $37.50 through the instrumentality of Col. Allison. The price was further reduced to $33 a thousand. Through Col. Allison the minister had been brought into touch with Mr. Bancroft and Col. Thomas with the result that motor trucks were delivered at $2,800 each as compared with the English price of $5,240. "So that," said Sir Sam, "whatever Col. Allison's faults may be—and I don't know that he has many more than some of the rest of us—he has at all events been instrumental in saving some money for the taxpayers of the British Empire."

The minister said that for revolvers which should cost the Laurier government in 1899 and 1900, $15.50 apiece, the present administration was paying $14 each. For Colt automatic pistols the price paid was $18.50 and they had not been sold more cheaply to any other country except the United States. It had been said that the trade could get them for $14.50. The trade, however, was compelled to pay duty which would bring the price up to $19.50. The Canadian government had obtained the weapons at $18.50 each or at the same figure as was paid by the French government and the Russian government.

Sir Sam Hughes said that Hon. Arthur Meighen had entirely refuted Mr. Carvell's allegation that the Shell committee had awarded contracts for the benefit of their own and allied companies. He pointed out that when it was declared that shell manufacturers in Canada had to use crucible or acid steel and it was discovered that only 400 tons of that material was obtainable, Col. Thomas Cantley had undertaken to experiment with basic steel for the shell committee. At one time the shell committee had gone into the Nova Scotia Steel Company to the extent of $500,000 and upwards for experimenting and other work. The result was that Col. Cantley had proven that Canadian basic steel was just as suitable for shells as crucible steel from the United States and that Canada had turned out 800,000,000 pounds of steel for use in producing shells. "All I have to say in this connection," declared the minister, "is that there is nothing too good, in my opinion, for Col. Thomas Cantley and the Nova Scotia Steel Company."

The minister said that the British government did not regard the question of the price of war materials as the most important consideration, in war time. What it wanted was the proper quality. He and the members of the shell committee, however, had regarded the question of price as a very serious one. Gen. Bertram and Col. Carnegie had investigated shell prices both in Canada and the United States and, he was satisfied, did their duty squarely.

"We are told," said the minister, "that in the contract for the fuses there was a commission of a million dollars. Well, that is only ten per cent. on the whole transaction and those gentlemen had to assume the risk of German outrages, of a change in prices and risks of everything. I tell this house today what will be proven before the royal commission in a day or so, that not one firm on the continent of North America could be induced to touch the number 80 fuse at the price which was offered and there is not one firm that is making a dollar out of the number 80 fuse." Gen. Hughes added that the advance of $1,500,000 made by the shell committee on the fuse contracts was unsatisfactory to the contracting firms in view of the fact that the usual advance made by the British government was twenty-five per cent., and they almost threw up the contracts because they were cut down to fifteen per cent.

Chasing Rainbows.

Returning to the alleged contracts for the division of profits on the United States fuse contracts, Sir Sam repeated that he knew nothing of them, but if they had ever been entered into those who had looked for such profits would merely find, as others in similar instances had found, that they had been chasing rainbows.

The minister then went on to instance other fuse contracts made on this continent to show how they compared in price and speed of delivery. He mentioned incidentally a contract made by the Canadian Car Company through Col. Allison with the Russian government for 2,000,000 shrapnel shells at $15.75, whereas the British government was paying the Morgan Company $18.65 for the same completed shells. The Canadian Car Company had been advanced over $3,000,000 before a fuse had been delivered; the American Locomotive Company over one and a half million; and the American Car Company over one and a half million. As for deliveries the Canadian Car Company contract for 2,500,000 detonator fuses should have been completed by March 31, 1916, but on this date less than 100,000 fuses had been delivered. The Canada Car and Foundry Company, which had contracted to deliver 2,500,000 time fuses by July, had delivered only 95,000 to date; the American Car Company, which should have delivered one million last December, had delivered none, and the Bartlett-Hayward firm and Eddy-Stone Ammunition Company, both of which had promised similar deliveries at the same time, had also delivered none. None had been delivered, either by the Scovall Company or the Bethlehem Steel Company, which had promised to deliver 2,000,000 and 1,000,000 respectively last December. The American Locomotive Company were five months behind in making their first delivery. In the face of such a general condition as this, then, what grounds were there for the criticism which had been made of the deliveries by the American Ammunition & International Arms and Fuse Companies, the two firms to which the shell committee had given contracts?

The International Fuse and Arms Company's plant, continued Sir Sam, was said by American manufacturers to be one of the most extensive and best equipped in the world. As compared with the statement of fuse deliveries made by other companies in Canada and the United States which he had read, Sir Sam pointed out that the American Ammunition Company had already delivered 707,000 fuses and the International Arms and Fuse Company 43,940. When both these plants succeeded in getting their graduation powder ring established they would increase two or three thousand fuses daily up to their maximum production of from 15,000 to 20,000 fuses per day.

The minister then referred to the alleged agreement between Allison, Lignanti, Yoakum and others, for the division of profits. "I am assured, that when the hon. member stood up in his place in this House and professed to read from an agreement," continued Sir Sam, "he knew there was no such agreement in agreement."

The "Southern Rifle Deal."

The minister then referred to what Mr. Kyte called the southern rifle deal relating to a contract for 500,000 rifles between the Vickers Company and Col. J. Wesley Allison which would amount to $8,500,000. Sir Sam explained that this deal concerned some 600,000 rifles which were said to have been originally shipped by the German government to Brazil where there were many German ex-soldiers. Many governments had sought to purchase them since the war. Sir Sam himself had been asked to secure them but had reported to the British government that efforts would be in vain and that it was only "a rainbow chasing deal." He had similarly reported in regard to another deal Mr. Kyte had instanced, that concerning another 140,000 rifles with whose purchase Col. Allison had been said to have been connected. "If it was true that Allison was in them," continued Sir Sam, "then I reported directly against his best interests. If Allison as is stated, was to get $1.25 out of each rifle then I robbed him of $1.25 each on 600,000 rifles in one case and 140,000 rifles in another."

The minister then went on to read from the Hansard of Mr. Kyte's remarks to show that that member had given the impression that he was reading from agreements in every case when he endeavored to prove that Allison had benefitted. "They say an equivocation is worse than a falsehood," said the minister. "If the inference from what I have read from Hansard is not that the Richmond member was reading from an agreement I do not understand the English language." (Conservative cheers.) Then the Richmond member went on to read a list of commissions, which, I understand, turned the heads of the House of Commons, the figures were so magnificently large. All rainbows, I am assured by my counsel which has been in New York awaiting my arrival, that he has examined into these and that not one dollar of this has ever been divided or ever will be divided."

Mr. Kyte had claimed that Allison had benefitted from the southern rifle deal to the extent of $625,000. Not one dollar had, as a matter of fact, ever been received by Allison from this deal. The Richmond member had claimed again that Allison had received $175,000 in the other purchase of 140,000 rifles. As a matter of fact, Col. Allison had received not a dollar from that.

"And yet a gentleman representing a free constituency in the Dominion, knowing that he has no data whereon to make them stands up here and tells this House and country these abominable mis-statements," said the minister.

Absolutely False.

Mr. Kyte had gone on to refer to the picric acid contract and claim that it had paid a commission of $362,500. As a matter of fact not one dollar was ever contracted for and not one dollar ever received for this contract. The House had been told that Allison and his confreres had in this matter pocketed huge sums but there was not a single particle of truth in that statement.

Returning to the fuse contracts in conclusion, Sir Sam Hughes said something about the prices at which they had been made. "As far as the No. 80 British fuse is concerned," he stated, "I challenge the hon. gentleman opposite to find any firm in the United States or Canada which will take a contract and guarantee deliveries, in lots of a million at the prices accepted by these concerns."

Sir Sam paused at this point and then resumed: "When in England I read an extract from a German paper re the present conditions. The Germans claim that since the outbreak of the war they have added a population of 55,000,000 to their domain. They claim that they have annexed Belgium almost entirely, the northern portion of France, nearly all of Russian Poland, nearly all of Galicia and all of Serbia; that Bulgaria is with them and also Montenegro, Roumania, the Adriatic provinces and Albania, and that they have forced an alliance with Turkey. I had the honor years ago in this House of Commons of pointing out that it was the ambition of Germany to rule the North Sea, the Baltic, the Adriatic and Aegean and the Euxine. They have seized and they control today all the vast resources, agricultural, mineral and manufacturing of those countries which I have named. They control the rich industries of Belgium and its mines in Lille, Armentires, and all those great industrial centres. In Russian Poland they have possession of the vast mines and manufacturing establishments. In Galicia they control very rich oil fields and the other industries there. In Serbia they have abundance of copper from its mines. Bulgaria with her vast resources is with them and I see from recent statements in the press that Roumania has come to an agreement to furnish Germany with millions of tons of farm produce. Every day the grandest railway train in the world runs from Berlin to Constantinople and the vast resources of the Turkish Empire in men and materials and products are at their disposal. Every morning shows that her submarines are not idle and the commerce of the Allies is disappearing from the face of the waters.

Such is the situation according to the Germans. Yet, after an absence of four or five weeks I find, on my return to Canada, that two hundred of the ablest men in the country, members of the House of Commons, instead of being out helping the cause, are sitting here listening to piffle of that description."

"The minister of militia is still a member of the government," replied Sir Robert Borden. "He has asked me to undertake the administration of his department while he is occupied with the investigation which had been granted at the instance of honorable gentlemen on the other side of the House. I desire to say that with regard to the matters to which the right hon. gentleman has alluded and which are now under investigation the minister of militia has assured me that he not only desires but intends that this investigation shall be full and complete to the end, and that he is prepared from now henceforth to place his time at the disposal of that commission in order that very full investigation may be made."

Inquiry Begins Today.

The prime minister continued that he had urged the members of the commission to organize as soon as possible and that as a result he was informed the commission would meet tomorrow and continue the investigation with every possible expedition until it was completed. Sir Robert continued:

"The minister of militia had not before had an opportunity of making allusion to certain matters with which it was sought to connect him through the observations of honorable gentlemen on the other side of the House. Many allegations were introduced with regard to the enormous profits supposed to have been made by Mr. Allison which were not connected so far as I am aware, with the shell committee or with the minister of militia or with the government in any shape, manner or form whatsoever. The allegations of the honorable member for Richmond were entirely new to me in respect of nearly all these matters but they were introduced in such a way as to endeavor to connect the minister of militia with the supposed enormous profits. Therefore notwithstanding the criticism of my right hon. friend I think it was a perfectly proper thing for the minister of militia to make the observations which he did in reference to the supposed contracts in order to dissipate the idea that he had any connection with them or that such contracts were, as a matter of fact, ever made, or any such profits ever realized.

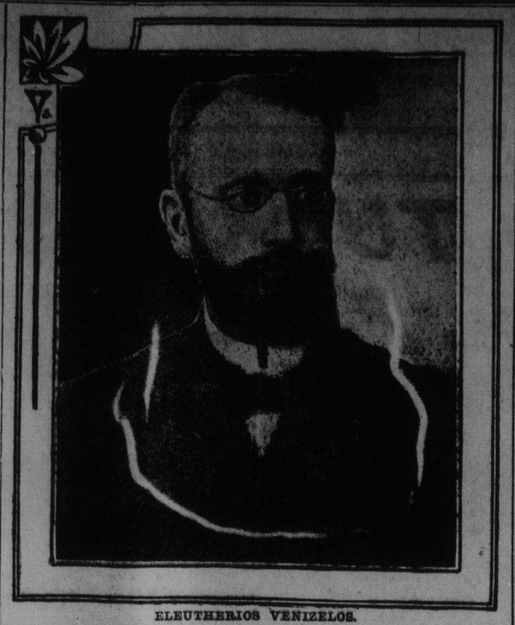
"The object of hon. gentlemen on the other side, at a very critical time in the history of this country and of the empire, seemed to be to swell up an enormous sum of supposed profits and by veiled insinuation to connect the Minister of Militia with them. I am free to say there never was a royal commission granted or recommended to the crown for the purpose of inquiring into the conduct of a minister of crown that was passed on such slender and slight foundations as the order-in-council and the commission issued in pursuance of it in this case. In recommending that course to H. R. H. the Governor-General I went beyond the pledge that I had given to this house and I went beyond that pledge because I knew of the impression which gentlemen on the other side of the house had endeavored to create and because I was determined that this matter should be probed to the bottom.

Will Be Probed To Bottom.

I want to tell my right hon. friend and gentlemen on the other side of the house that it will be probed to the bottom by this commission and that no effort on the part of this government will be wanting to that end. In making that assertion to this house I am expressing the determination and conviction not only of everyone of my colleagues but especially of the Minister of Militia himself.

"This matter will proceed tomorrow," continued Sir Robert, "before the tribunal which has been selected and while that investigation is being carried out the Minister of Militia will give his whole time and his whole energies to the investigation of the truth and of the facts. I am prepared, at his request, although it is a very great burden upon me, to undertake to give my attention to the affairs of his department in order that the interests of this country and doing its part in the great battle which the empire is carrying on may not be misapplied or may not suffer in any way whatsoever. That is the whole situation which we have exposed frankly, without any hesitation whatsoever, to the members of this house and the people of this country." (Prolonged Conservative cheering.)

Mr. E. M. MacDonald then rose to state that when the Minister of Militia had approached Mr. A. K. MacLean and himself and asked them whether anything would probably eventuate in the house which would interfere with his voyage to England, they had both referred him to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and had expressed no opinion on the subject to themselves. This the minister himself confirmed when Mr. MacDonald sat down.



ELEUTHERIOS VENIZELOS.

HELP BRING A HOME TOUCH TO YOUR BOYS IN THE TRENCHES

$250,000 and More

is wanted at once for the comfort, welfare and fighting efficiency of the men at the front by the Major Birks National Military Service Fund of the Y.M.C.A. Patrons H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and His Honor Lieut. Governor Wood.

Subscriptions, large or small, received and acknowledged by the Honorary Treasurer W. J. Ambrose, Manager Bank of Montreal, St. John.

Judge McKeown, Dr. A. P. Barnhill, J. A. Tilton, F. A. Peters, J. G. Harrison, H. G. Marr, E. A. Goodwin, T. H. Estabrooks, H. A. Porter, H. C. Rankine, G. E. Barbour, G. A. Kimball, C. H. Peters, E. L. Rising, committee for St. John.

QUOTATIONS IN THE ST. JOHN MARKETS

Groceries			
Sugar, standard	$7.60	@	$7.65
Rice	5.75	"	5.85
Tapioca	0.11	"	0.12
Beans—			
Yellow-eyed	4.50	"	4.60
White	4.00	"	4.60
Cornmeal, gran.	5.95	"	6.00
Cream of Tartar	0.50	"	0.52
Currants, cleaned	0.12½	"	0.13
Molasses	0.52	"	0.53
Peas, split, bags	6.25	"	6.50
Barley, pot, bags	3.25	"	3.30
Raisins—			
Choice, seeded	0.10¼	"	0.10½
Fancy, seeded	0.10¾	"	0.11
Salt, Liverpool, per sack, ex store	1.05	"	1.10
Soda, bicarb.	3.10	"	3.20
Flours.			
Manitoba	0.00	"	7.35
Ontario	0.00	"	7.05
Oatmeal, standard	0.00	"	6.75
Oatmeal, rolled	0.00	"	6.25
Cornmeal, bags	1.75	"	1.80
Canned Goods			
Beef—			
Corned 2s	5.00	"	5.50
Corned 1s	2.50	"	3.00
Beans—			
Baked	1.50	"	1.70
String	1.10	"	1.15
Clams	4.00	"	4.25
Corn	1.10	"	1.15
Herring, kippered	4.55	"	4.75
Oysters—			
1s	1.70	"	1.75
2s	2.50	"	2.55
Pineapple—			
Sliced	2.12½	"	2.15
Grated	1.65	"	1.70
Singapore	1.70	"	1.75
Peas	1.07½	"	1.10
Peaches, 2s.	1.80	"	1.85
Peaches, 3s.	2.40	"	2.45
Plums, Lombard	1.30	"	1.35
Pumpkin	1.10	"	1.15
Raspberries	2.17½	"	2.20
Salmon—			
Pinks	5.00	"	5.25
Cohoes	6.75	"	6.85
Red spring	8.50	"	8.60
Tomatoes	1.32½	"	1.35
Strawberries	2.42½	"	2.45
Provisions			
Pork, Can. mess	29.00	"	29.50
Pork, Am. clear	29.75	"	30.00
Beef, Am. plate	25.00	"	25.50
Lard, pure	0.16½	"	0.16¾
Lard, comp., tubs	0.14¼	"	0.14½
Meats, etc.			
Beef—			
Country	0.06	"	0.08
Butchers'	0.09	"	0.12
Western	0.10	"	0.12
Lamb	0.14	"	0.16
Veal, per lb.	0.08	"	0.12
Mutton, per lb.	0.08	"	0.10
Pork, per lb.	0.10	"	0.14
Butter—			
Tub	0.28	"	0.32
Roll	0.30	"	0.34
Creamery	0.32	"	0.36
Eggs, fresh	0.30	"	0.32
Eggs, case	0.26	"	0.28
Cheese, Can.	0.19½	"	0.20
Fowl, per lb.	0.00	"	0.18
Turkey, per lb.	0.28	"	0.30
Chickens, per lb.	0.35	"	0.80
Potatoes, bbl.	2.50	"	3.00

THE STANDARD "TRAVEL CLUB"

This coupon is good for one vote if presented at The Standard office before April 29. Place to the credit of

Name.....

Address.....

.....

"HEART SONGS" COUPON PRESENTED BY THIS PAPER TO YOU

HOW TO GET IT ALMOST FREE

Clip out and present one coupon like the above, together with our special price of 98c. Book on display at office of

The Saint John Standard

APRIL 19.

1 COUPON AND 98c Secures this $3.00 Volume

The Genuine Cardinal, Seal Grain, Flexible Binding, Red Edges, Round Corners, with 16 full-page portraits of the world's most famous singers, and complete dictionary of musical terms.

Out-of-town readers will add 18c. extra for postage and packing.

"HEART SONGS" The song book with a soul! 400 of the song treasures of the world in one volume of 500 pages. Chosen by 20,000 music lovers. Four years to complete the book. Every song a gem of melody.

ALLIE

Measures Against Which Protests Natural Co Decision to Send E Help Serbians', Fore Sir Edw. Grey Te Commons.

London, April 18—Measures taken by the ments in Greek territory or in Greek territoria which Greece has protested, followed as a na the decision to send an expedition to help Serb arrived at in the first instance at the request of Edward Grey, British foreign secretary, in the

The foreign secretary's statement was mad questions as to whether protests had been rece er an invitation to send assistance was receive of Greece, and after the change of government added that the Allies could not recede from th given. Corfu was the nearest place of refuge so they were sent there and their presence on lied forces at Saloniki made it necessary to ta Greek islands to protect the land forces and sh marines operating in the Aegean Sea.

THROUGH GERMAN

The future of German trade continues to perturb those German newspapers which are not wholly given over to the "Gott strafe England" obsession, and a new note is now observable in their discussions of the subject.

Germany's commercial prosperity is based on the free entry of her vast manufactures into this country. At all costs—this is the trend of the new argument—the friends of the Fatherland in England (and their name, unhappily, is legion) must make it impossible for this privilege to be abrogated, or "Germany is undone."

Even the Socialist "Vorwarts" has been inveigled into this new campaign, and devotes a long article to an insidious appeal to all working men to study the interests of the working men in Germany in order to enable that country to retain her commercial position.

Help the Huns!

The plea is veiled in the characteristic German fashion of an appeal to the material interests of the artisan, but the working man of England is far too sensible to be deceived by it:

While the struggle continues on the battlefields and the end of the war is still hidden in the dim distance, while no one can yet say how the belligerent nations will emerge from this horrible campaign, both sides are preparing for a war on economic territory.

On neither side is the task a light one, particularly when, as is the case in England, certain interested groups are utilising the opportunity to sound the battle cry of tariff protection which did duty on so many occasions of political and parliamentary embarrassments years ago.

If the demands of these rather noisy sections are realised, they would mean a complete reversal of the regime of Free Trade that has hitherto prevailed. This is a danger that threatens the well-being of the proletariat, not only in England, but in this country also. It is more than time the workers' movements in both groups of Powers should arm themselves against this menace.

We make the appeal with considerable misgiving, because we fear that the workers in all countries have been so greatly influenced by "sentiments" that they are no longer able to recognize the real enemy when they see him, and thus have been led to fight on the side of those groups whose economic interests are diametrically opposed to their own.

The situation is deplorable, but it will not be hopeless if the men of common sense take their courage in their hands and boldly call for an understanding with their brothers in Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Long-Limbed Backfisch.

The Berlin "Lokalanzeiger" has made another of its remarkable discoveries in English social life:—

The present is the day of the "khaki lady" in England. The country swarms with women of all ages and conditions attired in something approaching the khaki uniform, who are doing duty, or are alleged to be, in munition works, on the fields, in factories, and in a hundred other useful or ornamental spheres.

Even the long-limbed Backfisch (sprat: German equivalent for the term flapper) has joined the khaki crowd. Why? Because there is money in it, forsooth.

For example, there is Mr. Goodfornothing. He is in the trenches, but Mrs. Goodfornothing now receives from 21s. to 40s. a week from the Government, and even more, according to the number of children—more than enough to enable her to get a piece of fried fish from the nearest cookshop, and a little bottle or two full of something from the tavern. The khaki lady, indeed, finds herself so uncommonly well off in her new, husbandless condition, that she scorns the idea of a change when or if her man returns.

The Government is screaming aloud from the very turrets of the House of Parliament for women field-workers, but the khaki "grass widow" will have none of it. "I have long enough wash-