

One Campbellton Man Killed, Another Reported Wounded

CANADIAN SHELLS CHEAPER THAN THOSE MADE IN U.S.

Continued from page 1.
Sending Men Forward From Canada

Taking up the comments which have been made in regard to the rate at which soldiers are being sent forward, Sir Sam said that it was the function of the British government to call for troops as they were required. Canada stood today prepared to send twenty battalions to England. But the English authorities had not the transports available, or the places to house the men during the winter in England. The minister of militia agreed that it was desirable that the troops should have a course of training in England before going forward to the firing line, but he pointed out that they were receiving excellent training in Canada. He felt that the first contingent was a force second to none in the world. The men of the latter contingents were better shots than British soldiers who had been the same length of time under arms. "My heart's in the front," said Sir Sam, "was to go to the front, but my duties here prevented my doing so." He had realized, from the first, that trench warfare would be the rule in the conflict and he had been prepared for it. "I feel, however," he continued, "that perhaps my job here is much larger than the command of a division or a corps at the front." He went on to point out that a number of other officers had also been prevented from going with the expeditionary forces because they were required at home. Among them were Surgeon-General Fleet, a veteran of the South African war, General MacDonald, and General Gwatkin.

"What about General Lessard?" asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier. "I believe that he is anxious to go," replied Sir Sam, "although he is run down in health." He went on to instance General John Hughes and General Logie and Colonel Newburn, of the Second Military Division, as officers who were anxious to go but who had been, so far, kept at home by duties here. He declared that there had been no invidious choice of men to go abroad or stay at home. He thought that if an officer had a right to go it was General Fleet or himself.

There had been some discussion, said the minister, on the subject of machine guns. He felt that it was a topic to be openly dealt with in parliament, but he expressed his readiness to furnish a statement to the prime minister, who, he was confident, would be glad to allow its perusal by members of the House. This statement would show the disposition of guns and the orders which had been placed. Sir Sam was able to announce that the machine guns were now coming in satisfactorily, and he felt that the wishes of the people and the government with regard to them were being carried out to the letter. He would also, he said, be glad to furnish information with regard to the care of returned soldiers, and to pensions.

The minister of militia said that at the beginning of the war, Canada had a number of well-trained officers, many of whom had gone away with the expeditionary forces, and some of whom had been required at home to train new contingents for active service. Naturally, it was necessary to train men to officer new battalions. In order to do this, he announced, the government was now opening schools in each military area in the country. These schools would be open practically to any man who had any kind of decent education, and they would make it possible for a man to secure his certificate as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain or major. The schools would resemble those which existed during the time the regular troops of the British army were stationed in Canada, but would be more democratic in character. Candidates would be enabled to go from grade to grade until they had secured the certificate

of the grade to which they aspired, or for which they were fitted. Moreover, courses would start weekly and it would not be necessary for a man to wait three months, as in the past, for admission to the school of instruction. Sir Sam said that schools for non-commissioned and commissioned officers had been opened as new battalions for overseas service were authorized, and that hundreds of officers were now in training. The minister spoke approvingly of the type of young men who were coming forward for positions as officers and non-commissioned officers, such as engineers, and said that these volunteers were trained at once and assigned, according to their fitness to places in various corps.

At the outset of the war United States manufacturers were uncertain as to their right to sell arms to belligerent countries. The right was determined, later on, by a decision of the United States government, but in the meantime a way had to be found for obtaining munitions from the United States and to do this the minister had secured the services of Colonel J. Wesley Allison, a lifelong friend of the minister, and had written to the manufacturers of the Colt pistols asking why they were selling at a lower rate to wholesalers in Canada than to the Canadian government. The answer was that the price was the lowest charged to any government. The list price of the pistols in the United States was \$18.50, less discounts. The wholesale trade was more profitable being continuous, than occasional government orders, involving speedy deliveries, and the installation of new equipment. The wholesalers, moreover, spent money in advertising and in the sale of their goods to other governments since the war, and in no case cheaper than \$18.50.

Col. Allison had also acted in connection with the buying of machine guns. He had written a letter to the firms with which he dealt stating that he would not accept any commission on the orders. General Hughes stated that thirty thousand Canadians were now at the front, nearly sixty thousand in England, and the rest in Canada waiting to cross the ocean. It was realized last autumn, he said, that a large number of troops would have to be sent to the front through the winter and arrangements had been made to billet them in their own localities. Complaints that it would be difficult to handle the men in small numbers had proved to be groundless, the men in uniform being law-abiding citizens well able to look after themselves. The minister had saved the expense of renting large buildings. General Hughes next dealt with the alleged jamming of the Ross rifle. This, he said, had been due to defective ammunition. He had had the chamber enlarged from .462 to .464, and the British authorities had done the same with the new Lee Enfield. The minister quoted from reports from Gen. Carson and others to show that with this change both rifles were now giving complete satisfaction. The bad ammunition had been withdrawn, but recently, "in some mysterious way," some of it had found its way to the Canadian trenches.

No Political Favoritism.
Sir Sam denied, absolutely, that political favoritism had been shown in the conduct of the war. Mr. Carvell had suggested an inquiry into the giving of contracts in the minister's own riding. Sir Sam had inquired, and had been unpleasantly surprised to find that out of thirty concerns only three had secured contracts. One was the firm of Tiers and Burgess, of Fenelon Falls, headed by one of the most decent Liberals in the riding, T. W. Wilford, of Lindsay, another Liberal, had secured a contract for the manufacture of shell casings, and a third, "that I have been shamefully neglected by the Shell Committee. Knowing that my time was taken up, and that I could not join the ranks, I have taken better care of my constituents." Sir Sam held that party allegiance had not been an influence in appointments of officers. Generals Curry and Turner, Liberals had been appointed to command the Second and Third divisions, and not one Conservative had objected. The officers commanding the various brigades were about equally divided politically, while three-fourths of the medical officers were Liberals, and one-fourth Conservatives. The minister did not object to this. "I would as soon have a good Liberal fighting under me as a Conservative," he said. "Liberals officers were naturally in the majority, because Liberal officers had naturally come to the front during the sixteen years of Liberal administration."

Pursuing to the Shell Committee, General Hughes said he was the father of that body. He outlined the steps leading up to the establishment of a shell industry in the Dominion. On August 24, 1914, the war office had asked the militia department to obtain from United States manufacturers 100,000 18-pounder and 100,000 15-pounder shrapnel shells. It had seemed to Sir Sam Hughes that Canadian manufacture had turned out these shells as well as those in the United States. Shells had already been made in the Dominion arsenal.

Mr. F. B. Carvell interrupted to remark that shells had already been made in Canada. General Hughes retorted that the production from the arsenal was seventy-five shells per day, and that on test about 75 per cent of them had been found to be bad. He continued that after receiving the war office's first small order he had called Canadian manufacturers together and asked them to fill it. He had found them so nervous in regard to the enterprise that it was only when he had succeeded in obtaining encouragement from them from the banking institutions that they could be induced to enter the business at all. He had loaned them the services of his military experts—as he had also done in the case of shell manufacture in the United States, and the need of time to complete the work, after getting the war office's ratification of shell manufacture in the Dominion. After a conference between militia department experts and the manufacturers a price of \$8.25 for empty 15-pounder shells and \$3.50 for empty 18-pounder shells had been fixed, and had been accepted by the war office. The shell committee had then been formed, and had taken over entire control of the work. "Neither directly or indirectly did I, as minister of militia, ever interfere with the giving of any contract, or the fixing of any price," said Sir Sam. "In each case the price was fixed by the British government."

He stated that great credit was due Canadian manufacturers in that while United States shell makers had received bonuses or gold advances before they had given their consent to manufacture for the war, Canadian makers had taken their own risks and delivered the shells at lower prices. Such a record would stand for all time to the credit of the handicrafts of Canadian manufacturers who were induced to undertake the work.

U. S. Firms Had to be Coddled.
To illustrate his contention that United States manufacturers had to be coddled before they could be induced to accept shell contracts Sir Sam Hughes read to the house a letter written by the Crucible Steel Company, one of the largest industries in the United States, to the militia department, when asked to supply 18-pound or shrapnel shells. As compared with the first Canadian price of \$8.25, they had quoted a price of \$12.50, and furthermore demanded that, in the event of an embargo being placed by the United States government on the export of munitions, that they be given a guarantee that the Canadian government would buy their machinery; furthermore, that the contract be not subject to cancellation or reduction. Finally they stated their terms to be cash in gold against a bill of lading of the shells to be at their plant. "And that's what the British government is doing in the United States today," said the minister of militia. "One American firm, he said, had advanced to it by the British government twelve million dollars, while the Canadian branch of the same firm, which was also making shells, had not received a cent in the way of advance from the shell committee."

Gen. Hughes read to the house a cablegram sent to H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, on April 25, 1915, as follows: "Will Your Royal Highness thank Gen. Hughes, the Canadian shell committee and Canadian manufacturing firms for the satisfactory delivery of shells. I hope that future deliveries will come up to anticipation."

Further to illustrate the difficulties encountered in Canada in establishing a shell making industry, the minister of militia stated that even after a price of \$8.25 per shell had been fixed by Canadian manufacturers they had asked guarantees and had been promised by Sir Robert Borden that he would press the Imperial authorities to see that they were recognized should they lose money on shell

manufacture. The orders first received had been sparsely filled; they ceased to come for empty, and later were for filled shells, a much more complicated undertaking. But that, too, had been grappled with, and now the whole of the fuse, was being made in Canada. That had been the situation at first. Later, said Sir Sam, the shells had become more content till everyone with a little money was anxious to start some blacksmith shop to shell-making. The trains to Ottawa had been loaded with their hair parted in the middle, a sheet of paper and a pencil, and later went around the country, trying to get shell orders. But not one machine shop or plant got a shell order without being inspected.

"I felt my personal, not official, responsibility in the matter," said Sir Sam. "Whenever I heard one of these yarns, and the member for St. John hasn't touched the fringes of them yet, we investigated and did not find a solitary instance where there were any facts therein. I have yet to learn that there was anything wrong, and I am at Gen. Bertram's back, morning, night, and noon in the business."

The minister said that while he himself might have possibly been misled in the matter, he had, on every occasion, consulted the prime minister, who had been his balance wheel. The minister then turned to the question of finding the steel for the making of shells in Canada. Knowing nothing about steel himself he had consulted Col. Cantley of the Nova Scotia Steel Company, who did not think steel could be made to do for shell manufacture. Col. Cantley had spent some \$500,000 on experiments before he got the result, and he had succeeded in demonstrating the suitability of Canadian basic steel for the purpose for which it was desired. As a result 800,000 pounds of steel had been made in Canada, by Canadian workmen.

Sir Sam then referred to the charge that the shell committee was a political body. General Bertram, member Conservative; Col. Cantley, a supporter of Mr. E. M. MacDonald, and had probably voted both ways; Col. Laferrière was a Liberal; Mr. George Weston was a Liberal; Messrs. J. W. Borden, accountant and paymaster-general of the militia department, and a member of the cabinet, being the only members to belong to the Liberal branch of the Borden family. (Laughter.)

Challenge to Liberals.
As regards the whole question of shells in the militia department, Gen. Hughes disagreed to state that if the leader of the opposition would point to any Liberal anxious to go to the front, he would put a uniform on him, give him his training, and let him do his best.

Returning to the question of shell manufacture, General Hughes stated that even Great Britain had given manufacturers, whereas the Canadian manufacturers got nothing of the kind. The Canadian shell committee, he said, had placed contracts up and down the country, giving small manufacturers an equal chance, and by fixing uniform prices had avoided unhealthy competition. The Canadian price for the first order of 18-pound shells had been \$2.50, of which \$1.15 was for machinery and assembling shells; the second order had been for 400,000 shells at \$3. The machinery and assembling had, for this order, been reduced to \$2.30, because factories making these shells now had trained workmen and knew the proper processes. Some firms had spoiled forty per cent of the shells they turned out at first; a number of firms, in fact, had lost out on the orders at the big prices, which they had reaped in the later orders at much larger prices. Subsequent orders for machinery and assembling, said the minister, had been given at as low as \$1.85. The price now charged in the United States for Russian government orders for the same work was \$2.20. (Cheers.)

The minister took up the comparison made between shell prices in Canada and Australia. Australia had learned what she knew about shell-making, he said, from the Canadian shell committee. She had sent her experts to Canada, and the price of \$5 for machining and assembling 18-pound shells had been fixed in this country as a fair one for Australian conditions, although, at the same time, the Canadian price for the same work was \$3.80.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley stated he had been informed the Australian price had included the cost of the steel billets necessary in the manufacture of the shells, while the Canadian price did not.

Sir Sam Hughes replied that the price did not include the cost of the billets in either case. Mr. Pugsley, he said, had admitted he obtained his information from the Liberal Monthly. Sir Sam had obtained his from the men with whom the Australian authorities had dealt in Canada. On every order, stage by stage, the Canadian price, with one or two exceptions, had been lower than those offered in Great Britain or the United States, both as regards government arsenal and commercial shell production, and this was the case, though no bonuses had been given in Canada. In further reference to the charge that there had been politics in the administration of militia affairs Gen. Hughes reminded the opposition that when he had found a son of Hon. W. B. Fielding, former Liberal finance minister, occupying a subordinate position at the front he had taken him out and given him the rank for which he was fitted.

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The minister replied that there had been no new purchases of shells since the new committee was formed. In further reference to the charge that there had been politics in the administration of militia affairs Gen. Hughes reminded the opposition that when he had found a son of Hon. W. B. Fielding, former Liberal finance minister, occupying a subordinate position at the front he had taken him out and given him the rank for which he was fitted.

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No Dan Every Dockyard Britain's Sea Efficiency

London, Jan. 26.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Reginald McKenna, said in the House of Commons today he was glad to be able to assure the members that markedly satisfactory results had been obtained during the fortnight in which the treasury had been purchasing American securities in accordance with the plan for mobilizing them.

U.S. INSISTS ON FULL DISAVOWAL FROM BERLIN

Washington, Jan. 26.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, had another conference today with Secretary Lansing over the Lusitania negotiations. The ambassador spent some time talking with the secretary, and then before leaving the State Department building spent some time (relating to one of the department stenographers a document which he took with him to the German embassy.

It was made known in official quarters before the conference took place that the last German proposals were unsatisfactory, and that the United States was pressing for a full disavowal of the sinking of the liner, with the loss of 110 American lives.

YOU'RE BILIOUS! CLEAN LIVER AND BOWELS TONIGHT

IT'S A FACT UNIQUE

That We Have Not Had Such a Really Interesting Mid-Week Programme in Some Time Than We Offer Today!

WM. GARWOOD in a Stirring Dramatic Novelty Gem by the Majestic Co. **IMAR, THE SERVITOR** Wonderful Desert Scene—Powerful Acting—From New York's Smart Set to Desert of Arabia

Pattie Broadway Comedienne Clary Fitzgerald in the Rubic Parce **"CISY'S INNOCENT WINK"**

FRI.—SAT. **"AN INNOCENT TRAITOR"** Thorough Study of Foreign Spy System.

"A BROKEN CLOUD"

Novelty Comedy Hit **"THE BOOK AGENT"**

The First in a Series of Special Views **SEEING AMERICA**

MON.—Bessie Barriscale in "The Painted Sea"—Vivid Story of Sea Life—4 Acts

ANOTHER 26TH MAN GIVES LIFE FOR EMPIRE

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—In the midnight casualty list, C. Fairley, Hanover street, Campbellton, N. B., is reported wounded; John Branson, of Campbellton, N. B., a member of the 2nd Battalion, is reported killed in action.

IMPERIAL THEATRE TODAY!

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