

received from the British Government and the Shell Committee continued to place these orders in a most arbitrary manner.

### **POLITICAL FAVORITISM**

The atmosphere became surcharged with rumours of political favoritism and abnormally high profits. So much was this the case that rumours of the grossest graft and scandal were in circulation everywhere. When the House of Commons met in the winter of 1916 Mr. F. B. Carvel, M.P. for Carleton, N.B., Hon. Dr. Pugsley, Mr. G. W. Kyte, M.P. and other members of Parliament made serious accusations against the Government in regard to the manner in which this Shell Committee had been operating.

They accused the Shell Committee of being the distributor of Tory patronage and fact after fact was placed before the members of the House of Commons to prove that Conservative members and their friends were influencing members of the Shell Committee and reaping tremendous profits out of the money which was being spent.

One of the chief criticisms levelled against the Committee was that several of its members who were interested in manufacturing Companies were receiving huge contracts, and Mr. Carvell in his speech on March 7th gave the following information:—

“John Bertram & Sons, Ltd., of Dundas, Ont., received contracts amounting to over \$1,300,000. General Alexander Bertram, who was Chairman of the Shell Committee was Vice-President of the John Bertram & Sons Co., Ltd.

“The Electric Steel & Metals Company of Welland, of which Mr. E. Carnegie is Secretary-Treasurer, got contracts for some \$1,800,000. Mr. Carnegie was also a member of the Shell Committee.

“The Nova Scotia Steel Company, of which Col. Thomas Cantley is the head, secured orders of all kinds amounting to over \$15,000,000. Col. Cantley was also a member of the Shell Committee.

“The Universal Tool Steel Company, a company known to be owned and controlled by MacKenzie & Mann, got orders amounting to some \$1,700,000 and Mr. Carvell adduced proof to show that they received their orders through the intervention of Sir Sam Hughes himself.

### **THE SHELL COMMITTEE A PATRONAGE DISTRIBUTOR**

In support of these accusations Mr. Carvell and other Liberal members gave facts to show how Tory members, Tory candidates, and their friends were dabbling in these contracts.

Space here will not permit giving all the details which were placed upon Hansard at that time. Any person making application to the Central Liberal Information Office, Ottawa, will be supplied with a copy of Hansard containing these speeches by Liberal members.

**A Few Facts Brought to Light Were:—**  
That mushroom Companies were established and incor-