

rainbow-chasing affairs which are to be found in every street, in every city in the Dominión, or on the North American continent, or in the world. First, they would be asked five cents a rifle, then they would be asked ten cents, then there would be another advance, and the agents of the German interests who were holding those rifles were simply taking all the money they could get out of the various people who were anxious to get them; but they had no intention, so far as I could ascertain, of delivering up those rifles. Without going into the whole story, the rifles were never obtained and they are there yet. So that, when my hon. friend says that this was agreed to he does not say that they got them.

Then he speaks of another deal concerning 140,000 rifles, known as the Allison Southern rifle deal. It will be found that this was even more visionary than the first one. I objected to these rifle deals; I reported directly against them; and, if it is true that Allison was in them—and I do not know whether he was or not—I reported directly against his best interests and accordingly took away the amount that it is stated Allison was to get. If Allison, as it is stated, was to get \$1.25 out of each rifle, I robbed him of \$1.25 each on 600,000 rifles in one case and on 140,000 rifles in another.

Then, the hon. gentleman says that there were negotiations pending with the Providence Chemical Company, of St. Louis, for the sale of 5,000,000 pounds of picric acid. It might as well be understood first as last that whenever any man, I care not whether he was black or white, French or British, or of any other race—or German Canadian—appealed to the Department of Militia and Defence, representing a firm that was straightforward and competent to do the work, I had no hesitation, nor had the Prime Minister—I think I am justified in using his name in that regard—in backing that concern to bring trade to Canada from any part of the Empire or the world. Therefore, not only did we do that, but when I found that exorbitant prices were being charged the British Government or the Canadian Government, I used my best endeavours to have these prices reduced to what was fair and reasonable. At the time I am speaking of, the prices being paid for picric acid, as I was informed, were exorbitant, and an effort was made in England by members of the British Government to have those prices reduced by bringing in other competitors. The re-

[Sir Sam Hughes.]

sult was, not that this gentleman sold anything, but that he forced the parties who had been negotiating with the British Government to reduce their prices down to lower and proper figures. That is what I had in my mind when I stated that through the instrumentality of this gentleman millions upon millions had been saved to the British Government; because it is well known in this House that I have been asserting from the beginning of this war, that if the war is going to be won, it is going to be won by dollars and cents and munitions. Flesh and blood cannot run up against steel and shrapnel shell and high explosives with any hope of winning the war. Therefore I have maintained from the start, I maintained it long years ago—and I in consequence incurred odium and the enmity of certain gentlemen in Canada—that this war was coming on, and that it was our duty to get ready when commodities were cheap. I realized that Germany had every warehouse within her borders filled from cellar to garret with rifles and munitions of war, and that is borne out by the facts, for they have not yet caught up to those supplies which they had made before the beginning of the war. I pointed out that they had these munitions made cheaply, and that the nations that fought them would have to produce their supplies in a hurry, with unskilled labour, and under very adverse conditions, and that the prices which would be paid by the British, the French, and the colonies, would of necessity be abnormal, being those of war-time. I declared then that every dollar that could be husbanded should be husbanded in order that the final result of victory for liberty might be assured. I had therefore no hesitation in endorsing our saddlery men, our shirt manufacturers, our boot manufacturers, our clothing manufacturers, our producers of every kind in Canada, who had commodities to sell and who could provide these commodities for the British Government at fair prices.

The hon. member for Richmond in the course of his speech was asked some questions:

Sir Robert Borden: Is the hon. gentleman reading from an agreement or from a brief?

Mr. Kyte: I am reading from a statement I have prepared.

Sir Robert Borden: Would he be good enough to send over any of the agreements he may have read as he finishes with them?

Mr. Kyte: I will send over everything that the right hon. gentleman is entitled to have from