

a substantial piece of work.

Seventeen. Finishing base and making to weight, and also to gauges.

Eighteen. The fitting of brass, or steel, nose sockets, after hand tapping the thread and turning socket to shape. These done, the shells are ready to varnish, after washing and brushing.

Nineteen. Varnish, pumped into the shell. When dry shell is ready for baking in a hollow wall oven which, once heated, will keep continuously, at an even temperature; shells are thoroughly baked in six hours.

Twenty. Copper banding. Bands pressed on by machine; pressure, 2,000 pounds.

Twenty-One. Turning copper bands. Shells brought to gauge; turning tools passed over the bands.

Twenty-Two. Marking of shells. The shells are marked "4.5, How. V. L. F. S., " with name of maker and date.

Twenty-Three. Shells having been examined by firm's inspector, are subject to rigid government oversight. When finally passed, the shells are sent to paint room.

Twenty-Four. Painting. Painted first, white, then given an over-coat of yellow, which indicates that the shell is of the high explosive kind.

Twenty-Five. Boxing. When paint is dried, shells are boxed; two in a box; the boxes are supplied. A box-full weighs roughly, 75 pounds. The shells are now ready for their momentous journey over the sea to the other side and thence to "somewhere."

The tool room for a shell finishing plant is of special interest. This modern tool room of Cummings' has the following machinery installations: wet grinder, power hack saw, 9 inch special drill, two 18 inch lathes, 30 inch drill, cutter grinder, 24 inch crank shaper, universal milling machine, with these and expert workmen the firm made all the special tools for the shell finishing plant. Some of these are very complicated and yet quite as good and serviceable as the tools imported by some firms—of this Nova Scotia firm it may be said it has proved itself equal to the occasion.

That Canada, and possibly more particularly Nova Scotia, has participated largely in the production of shells, big thanks are due the shell committee, recently dissolved. The general public, I fear, have failed to recognize the magnitude of the work they accomplished. Indeed from what has appeared in certain newspapers one was taught to believe that the committee constituted a sorry crowd. The censures hurled at the committee, and the innuendoes amounting almost to charges of graft, are but samples of the lengths to which petty people actuated by jealousy, and pettifoggish partizan politicians, impelled by spleen, will go.

It has been hinted that the committee did the square thing neither by the imperial government nor by the Canadian manufacturers. This betrays how much certain newspapers and some people do not know. Had the members collectively had itching palms then, today individually they might have been millionaires. A strong assertion, you say. Yes, and I am prepared to repeat it. When the imperial government asked the shell committee if Canada could supply a given number of shells, the committee answered "yes" and named a price. The reply

flashed back was, in substance, "Go ahead." The committee not only did so but, finding that they could be produced at a less price than the imperial authorities agreed to pay, gave them the benefit of the lessened price—due to the committee's activities. "There is little in that," so many say. Is there indeed? Supposing the contract, having been duly entered into, and the committee found the shells cost more than the contract price, would the imperial authorities have paid, without demur, the extra cost? I make no answer. The committee supplied to the imperial authorities, up to the time of dissolution, shells at twelve to fifteen million dollars less price than had been mutually agreed upon, and that is not all. I believe that had it not been for the shell committee and especially the diffusive optimism of that big Nova Scotian, Colonel Cantley, the larger portion of the order for shells which came to Canada would have gone to the United States. I believe I am in a position to say, notwithstanding the assertions of a contrary nature, that the price charged by and given to Canadian makers of shells is very much less than given to makers across the line, and in some instances less than paid British makers.

If we take the saving effected by the making of shells in Canada, instead of in the United States, and add to it the sum already stated, as saved by the committee in another direction, we may place the entire saving to the imperial authorities at all the way from thirty-five to fifty millions of dollars, and even that is not all that Britain owes Canada's shell committee, and General Sir Sam Hughes who brought it into being.

To the Canadian shell committee, I make bold to say, Lloyd George is indebted for the ground work of the system adopted by him in the building up of the munitions department, none accomplishing so great and so needful a work in Britain.

Women are coming to the front in Britain these days, surely. Recommendations are made by the British Munitions Labour Supply Committee that women aged eighteen and over shall be paid £1 a week for work in engineering establishments, that women who do work customarily done by fully-skilled workmen shall be paid the men's time rates and receive same overtime, night shift, Sunday and holiday allowances, and that the men's conditions shall apply in the case of women doing piece-work or working on the premium bonus system.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, President of the Board of Education, speaking at Covent Garden, said that in the early part of next summer this country would be in a position that nobody, even twelve months ago, would ever have thought we were likely to be in. So far as munitions of war, the armies were able to place in the field, and officers, were concerned, by then we should be in such a position to achieve that satisfactory result which all desired to see. But we could achieve this result only by maintaining the spirit of unity and hopefulness which would keep us free from pessimism.