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Two Cents

WHY?

The Royal Commission now sitting at Ottawa is investigating only four contracts let by the late Canadian Shell Committee to United States firms; only this and nothing more.

A contract with the International Arms & Fuse Co. for 2,500,000 fuses.

A contract with the American Ammunition Co. for 2,500,000 fuses.

An alleged or abortive contract with the Edwards Valve Company of Chicago for cartridge cases.

An alleged contract or negotiations with the Providence Chemical Co. of St. Louis, for supplies of picric acid.

These contracts amounted to some \$22,000,000.

The Canadian Shell Committee handled altogether contracts amounting to over \$300,000,000.

The scope of the Royal Commission is restricted rigidly to these United States contracts—LESS THAN ONE-TWELFTH of the total business of the Shell Committee.

By the terms of its commission from the Borden government, it can not and must not go any further.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's demand was for Parliamentary investigation of ALL business of the Shell Committee.

Voted down by the Borden majority in the House.

A later demand by Liberals for extension of scope of the Commission; also voted down.