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### SALT WATER TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A POUND.

AN Ottawa newspaper is much concerned because the British government was charged 25 or 28 cents a pound for salt water, in its bacon contract with a Canadian packing concern. It asks indignantly:

And, if the British Government didn't know more than to pay 25 or 28 cents a pound for salt water, was it nobody's duty to advise it? Was it just "business" for a wealthy company that was already making huge profits on a contract under which it could not possibly lose, to set itself out to secure 25 to 28 cents a pound for salt water from the British Government, from the public of Britain? And this a British firm?

We fear that the *Ottawa Journal's* justifiable concern comes a bit late. The Canadian firm responsible for this practice was but emulating the policy of silence adopted by the Canadian government when the British war office was being mulcted by Canadian munition profiteers and middlemen in the contracts given out in this country during the first eighteen months of the war. Was it not the administration's duty to advise the British war office that it was being bled by these gentry?

Apparently not. Not only was the government through its militia department, silent on this point but when the facts were revealed in the investigations into the doings of Allison and his friends the administration repeatedly took the position—even on the floor of the House of Commons—that, as it was the British government that was being swindled the matter was no concern of ours. The *Journal* continues in this strain:

This taking of payment for salt water was a "sore point" with Mr. Wardle, as a patriot and a Britisher, and he left the employ of the William Davies Company soon after the foregoing instructions were given to him. Were there no profit sharers of the company who, as patriots and Britishers, also felt it as a sore spot?

We ask, were there no ministers or officials in the government of Canada who as patriots and Britishers, felt it their duty to warn the British war office of the enormous overcharges for war material purchased in this country during a period of the struggle when every shilling should have made itself felt against the foe?