

contract was carried out, and Yoakum then had an understanding with Allison to divide the \$20,000 half and half, except that Allison was to give Lignanti \$2,500. Where the four cents added price came in, and why, is told in plain words in the evidence of Yoakum (page 973, Unrevised Official Evidence). The quotations are of Mr. Johnston's questions and Yoakum's replies:

Q.—Perhaps you can explain (it may be very simple as you know the facts) to me the effect of that agreement, which I see was put in as an exhibit; or this provision of the agreement: "the price of said cartridge cases shall be \$2.39 per cartridge case in lawful money," and so on. Do you know how that came to be put in there? A.—No. The price was \$2.39 net, that is, the four cents made up the four cents I get.

Sir Robert Borden's cable again continued:

“Kyte also alluded to many other transactions in which Yoakum and Allison were to receive and divide commissions of very large amounts but on inquiry none of them were found to relate to Shell Committee.”

That is quite true. The reference which Mr. Kyte made to other transactions did not refer to the Shell Committee here at Ottawa and therefore were not subject to investigation by the Duff-Meredith Commission.

Sir Robert Borden's cablegram to Sir Sam Hughes was a fair synopsis of Mr. Kyte's actual statements in the House. It has been reproduced here, paragraph by paragraph, and it may fairly be left to the reader to judge for himself if the evidence on oath before the Meredith-Duff Commission did not support every single statement made by Mr. Kyte.

Sir Sam's Responsibility.

A large section of the Tory press throughout Canada has undertaken to read a greater meaning into the statements of Mr. Kyte and has insisted that he had charged Sir Sam Hughes with actual criminal participation in the profits of the contracts referred to. As a matter of fact Mr. Kyte never made any such charge or accusation. It has never been charged by Mr. Kyte or any other Liberal member that Sir Sam benefitted personally, financially or otherwise.

But that does not mean that Sir Sam Hughes had no responsibility. It must not be forgotten that Sir Sam made himself responsible for Col. J. Wesley Allison. On March 2, 1916, in the House of Commons, as may be seen from the Official Hansard of that date, Sir Sam stated that he had chosen J. Wesley Allison as his **“adviser, counsellor and guide in connection with the various matters that would come before us in connection with this War.”** Not only this, Sir Sam specifically declared and led the House of Commons and the people of Canada to believe that Allison was not receiving “one cent” in the way of commissions or otherwise from anyone. Thus, Sir Sam said in the House on January 26, 1916:

“I may say further concerning Col. Allison—I shall refer to the matter of fuses in a very short time—that in all his dealing with business firms in the United States he has in each instance, so I am informed and believe, given those with whom he dealt the following letter, or one similar.”

and he then read the following letter:

May 14, 1914.

“Confirming my verbal statements to you of yesterday and in order that there can not be any room for mis-

understanding, I now reaffirm in writing my position in connection with the fuse question.

“I have been and am doing my very best to secure the lowest prices possible for the Government, and above all things wish to do whatever I can to aid them in procuring the best workmanship, lowest prices, and largest deliveries possible; and if you are bidding for the manufacture of this fuse for the Shell Committee or the Canadian Government, I want it distinctly understood that I do not want any profit added to the price under any conditions, with the intention of providing a commission for me, as I would not under any circumstances accept a commission of any kind from anybody, in connection with this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) J. Wesley Allison.

Again in the same speech on March 2nd, Sir Sam Hughes speaking of Col. Allison's work made the following statement:

“As far as Canada was concerned, nothing was to be added to the prices, and that at the close of the War we should endeavour to recompense Col. Allison in some other way, because he has consistently refused to take any commission, although he has had to pay out money in express and freight charges, and I hope he has kept the bills.” (See Hansard, p. 1409.)

And Still He Sticks to Allison.

So much for Sir Sam's loyalty to his “adviser, counsellor and guide,” J. Wesley Allison, prior to the revelations under oath before the Meredith-Duff Commission. But even after these revelations—after it had been shown that Allison was instrumental in getting together the Yoakum-Bassick-Cadwell-Allison combination that was to split a rake-off of a cool million dollars—Sir Sam was asked on the witness stand if after hearing these statements his feelings toward Allison had at all changed. Sir Sam replied **“Not a particle, strengthened.”** This statement is to be found on page 1251 of the Official Evidence.

The foregoing is a fair summary of the evidence given before the Royal Commission in respect to the specific statements made by Mr. Kyte. It must be left to the judgment of the public, which pays the bills, to decide whether there was between Sir Sam Hughes and his “adviser, counsellor and guide,” Allison, any bond closer than the bond of disinterested friendship.

DIARY OF THE MONTH.

1916.

May.

- 6 DAVIDSON COMMISSION at Ottawa, examination of Col. J. Wesley Allison continued.
- 7 HON. G. P. GRAHAM at special recruiting service, Montreal.
- 9 OTTAWA CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION, annual election of officers, meeting addressed by A. E. Fripp, M.P. and others.
- 13 DR. M. CLARK, M.P. (Red Deer) at recruiting meeting, Montreal
- 13 DAVIDSON COMMISSION, inquiry re Sale of Small Arms Ammunition, examination of SIR SAM HUGHES and Col. J. Wesley Allison.
- 15 QUEBEC PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, nominations result in return of 22 Liberals, 3 Opposition, by acclamation.
- 22 QUEBEC ELECTIONS, LIBERAL GOVERNMENT RETURNED.
- NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE DISSOLVED, nominations June 13, elections June 20.
- DAVIDSON COMMISSION, continuation of special inquiry re Sale of Small Arms Ammunition.
- 25 HON. T. C. CASGRAIN (Postmaster General) left Ottawa for England.
- 26 Hon. R. H. Brand, C.M.G. (England) appointed to Imperial Munitions Board.
- SIR GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade & Commerce) left Ottawa for England.
- DAVIDSON COMMISSION adjourned to June 12.
- 30 PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION, Westmoreland, New Brunswick Hon. P. G. Mahoney, new Works Commissioner, defeated by DR. E. A. SMITH (Liberal) of Shediac. Majority 67.
- 31 BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATURE PROROGUED (last session).
- Hon. P. A. Landry, Speaker of the Senate, resignation announced