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IN YOUR HOME

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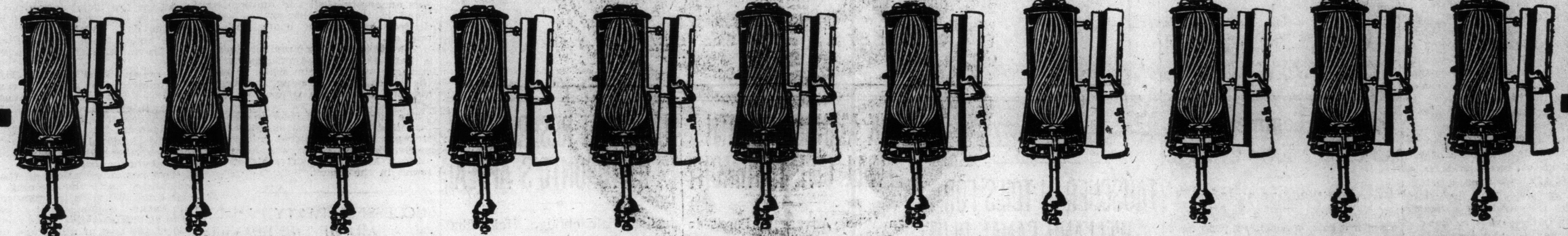
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HUGHES TO HURRY BACK TO CONFRONT ACCUSERS

Militia Minister Strgly Denies Any Improper Connection With Contracts.

PARTY BREACH HEALED

Conservatives Satisfied With Announcement Made by Sir Robert Borden.

(Continued From Page 1.)

charges was the high court of parliament. "No proposals that I could make," Sir Robert retorted, "would satisfy the right honorable leader of the opposition. I am less concerned, however, about satisfying him than I am about satisfying the people of Canada. I have no doubt that the people of this country will be entirely satisfied."

Shortly before the house assembled at three o'clock it became generally known that the government was about to make an announcement. There was an unusually large attendance of members and a number of prominent spectators including N. W. Rowell, K.C., who is down for the day from Toronto. As soon as the orders of the day were called, Sir Robert Borden rose and was greeted by his party followers with loud and prolonged applause.

Premier's Statement.

He began by briefly quoting excerpts from his speech delivered in the house of commons during the early stages of the debate upon the Laurier resolution for an investigation of the shell committee. These excerpts, taken together, stated what had been the position of the government. They recited in detail the reasons for refusing an investigation. The principal reason, of course, was that the Canadian Parliament had no jurisdiction to sit in judgment upon the conduct or misconduct of the British Government. They also contained the proposition that if any member of the house standing in his place, and upon his responsibility as a member, made any charge against a member of the government,

then such charge would be promptly investigated.

A Definite Charge. "This has not been done," said the prime minister, amid breathless silence soon to be broken by loud applause, "but," he continued, "the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Kite) made statements last Tuesday evening as to the connection of the minister of militia with certain contracts entered into by the shell committee, and as to enormous profits or commissions arising out of these contracts to certain companies which he mentioned. It is alleged that Mr. J. Wesley Allison had a very large interest in these profits or commissions, and it is suggested that, thru his influence with the minister of militia, the shell committee was induced to make the contracts in question. The minister of militia and defence had previously stated to the house his close relation to Mr. J. Wesley Allison and his great confidence in that gentleman."

"Having regard to these considerations," the premier continued, "I think it desirable that an enquiry should be made into the facts connected with the shell committee with the American Ammunition Co., and the International Arms and Fuse Co., and the cartridge case contract made by the shell committee with the Edwards Valve Co."

Scope Not Limited.

"Upon careful inquiry I cannot find that any of the other contracts out of which it is alleged by the hon. member for Richmond that J. Wesley Allison obtained profits or commissions, were made either by the shell com-

mittee or by any department of the government of Canada. However, as it has been alleged that the shell committee made a contract with the Providence Chemical Company of St. Louis that alleged contract will be included."

"I therefore propose," said the premier, "to recommend to his royal highness the governor-general that a royal commission shall issue appointing one or more judges to make a thorough investigation into these four contracts and all matters connected therewith."

Borden's Peremptory Command. The prime minister then read to the house a cablegram he had sent to Major-General Sir Sam Hughes. The message, stated in succinct form the Kite charges and contained the following peremptory command for the minister's immediate return to Canada:

"I propose issuing a royal commission forthwith to investigate fuse and cartridge case contracts, and it is necessary that you return immediately for the purpose of enquiry."

Sir Robert then read to the house the minister's reply, which ran as follows:

"London, March 30.
"Prime Minister, Ottawa. Please state to the house that I have no improper connection with contracts referred to or any other contracts. If any suggestion to the contrary is made I respectfully demand full investigation by the judicial tribunal presided over by Sir Charles Davidson. I shall sail first available boat. (Signed) "Sam Hughes."

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that any enquiry would be satisfactory to the hon. gentleman opposite; I am more concerned, may I say, with proposing something that will satisfy the people of this country, and I think that what I have proposed will satisfy them. The names of the commissioners will command their confidence. Then the leader of the opposition can also appoint one of the counsel. If that does not satisfy the hon. gentleman opposite, then I am afraid nothing will."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "There is one way, and only one way, and that is to appoint a committee."

MOTOR CAR DAMAGED
Damage to the amount of \$95 was done to a motor car belonging to and driven by J. Ross, 63 Yorkville avenue, yesterday afternoon, when the engine back-fired. The firemen were called and soon extinguished the blaze. Fortunately, Mr. Ross was not hurt.

SUSTAINED FRACTURED LEG
When the horse he was driving along East Gerrard street, near Wood-

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bine avenue, last night, ran away. Jacob Sharke, 64 Teraulay street, was thrown to the pavement, sustaining a fractured leg. He was taken to the General Hospital in the police ambulance.

DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL.
Accidental death was the verdict given at last night's inquest at the morgue into the death of John Marce, who was fatally injured at a starch works in Port Credit recently.

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