

chasing binoculars was narrow but the profits big. The story is a sad one.

Six Middlemen.

Bausch & Lomb of New York the original makers and importers sold to Milton Harris a New York broker. Mr. Harris sold to Mr. Bilsky a reputable Ottawa jeweller. Bilsky offered to sell to the Government all the binoculars they wanted of standard make, at \$45.00 each, but he had no chance to do business with the Government because he was a Liberal. Mr. Bilsky sold to Mr. T. M. Birkett a son of a former Conservative M.P. from Ottawa.

Mr. Birkett sold to Sam Hughes' "Good Boys" namely P. W. Ellis & Co of Toronto who sold to the Government after charging a 10% commission for handling the goods and Sir Sam said that he was very sorry that he had not allowed these "Good Boys" P. W. Ellis Co., a 20% profit.

Thus it will be seen that from the manufacturer to the dealer **six middlemen received their blood toll.**

But that is not the worst feature. The binoculars were not of a stipulated quality. They were for the use of Canadian officers and on the accuracy and power of the glasses might easily depend the lives of whole companies of Canadian soldiers. If an officer is furnished a poor binoculars, which is worse than nothing, the soldier suffers. **In this case however, the soldier was given the second consideration and the middleman had the preference.**

Read the report which was passed by the Public Accounts Committee and presented to the House of Commons which is as follows:

"From the evidence it appears a number of binocular glasses were of poor quality, low range and inferior efficiency, but passed inspection and were paid for at excessive prices; and this was due to misrepresentation and inadequate inspection."

Motor Trucks

The purchase of motor trucks for the various contingents of the Overseas Forces reeks with graft, middlemen's profits, commissions and delays which were in evidence even before the war broke out. The channels for corrupt practice seemed to be well opened in the Militia Department, where we find that a gentleman by the name of Mr. J. H. McQuarrie **had been selling his influence** with Sir Sam Hughes in order that the might get an order from the Militia Department for motor