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# Shells

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The history of the war shows that the British Government was quite unprepared, at its outbreak to furnish the necessary supply of munitions. Realizing this—strenuous efforts were made to manufacture quickly large quantities of shells to cope with this situation and the enormous reserves which Germany had for years piled up. Shells were of vital importance; shells meant victory for the allies; shells meant protecting the lives of our Canadian and British soldiers. Shells were the one thing that was needed.

The Canadian Government was asked to assist in the manufacture of shells and were given an initial order of 200,000. The Government appointed a shell committee composed of four military and four civilian members.

## IT WAS A CANADIAN COMMITTEE

This Shell Committee was a Canadian Committee. It was appointed by the Canadian Government. The executive head was under the control of the Canadian Government and the British Government looked to the Canadian Government to carry on the work.

## THE SHELL COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

On April 26th, 1916, copy of the original appointment of the Shell Committee was laid before the Meredith-Duff Commission. This was filed as exhibit No. 8. It shows that Sir Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia, appointed the Shell Committee on the 7th day of September, 1914. At that time it was composed of four members, Col. Alexander Bertram, Thos. Cantley, Geo. W. Watts and F. D. Lafferty. A few days later, the Minister of Militia appointed Mr. E. Carnegie to the Commission and later still other members were added.

A telegram was also produced dated September 10th, 1914, which was from Sir Sam Hughes, to the British War Office and read as follows:—

"Have organized committee to manufacture shells. They guarantee 20,000 by 1st of November and 30,000 monthly thereafter. May be able largely to increase this amount."  
(Sgd) Sam Hughes.

## GOVERNMENT REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT WORK OF SHELL COMMITTEE

In the House of Commons on April 5th, 1915, Sir Robert Borden referred to the Shell Committee in the following terms:—

"I WISH TO PLACE BEFORE PARLIAMENT THE RECORD of what has been accomplished by the committee appointed in this country to fill orders which the British Government desired to place here, if they could be placed in Canada, for the supply of munitions. A committee was formed by the Minister of Militia in the early stages of