

different. He did not gloss over the accusations which had been made; he did not ignore them altogether; but took the attitude that whether the committee had acted rightly or wrongly, it was no concern of his, nor of the Canadian Government, and that the Government were absolutely not responsible for the actions of the Shell Committee."

Here Sir Wilfrid Laurier went on to show how Hon. Mr. Meighen had claimed in his speech that the investigation now asked for was in exact parallel to the motion made by Mr. Monk in 1903, which from the following it will be noted was not a resolution at all but a motion for a return of papers. Sir Wilfrid stated as follows:—

"Before going further, I must refer to the motion made by Mr. Monk in 1903, after the South African War, which was:

For a return showing:

1. The total amount paid by the Government of Canada for hay and oats, purchased for the Imperial Government, for shipment to South Africa, during the years 1900, 1901 and 1902.
2. The names of the parties from whom hay and oats were so purchased.
3. The prices at which the said hay and oats were so furnished during the said periods, from each of the said parties.
4. The total amount paid to each of the said parties, both for hay and oats.

This motion was refused by the Government of that day, it was pressed by the Opposition of that day, and it was defeated by the vote of the House. The Solicitor General now cites this as a precedent, but I say that there is no parallel between the two cases. This motion presented by Mr. Monk was a motion merely for the production of papers, while the motion now presented to the House is for an investigation for cause shown."

IN 1903 MR. MONK WAS FOR A RETURN; TO-DAY WE ARE ASKING FOR AN INVESTIGATION.

"I go further and say that the case of 1903 as cited is not at all a precedent, as is contended by the Solicitor General. There is all the difference in the world between that case and this. I turn again to this motion made by Mr. Monk. It was presented as a motion for the production of papers, and it was moved without reason given, just like many others that are carried by this House every session. Mr. Monk, I say, made his motion without a word of explanation."

Sir Wilfrid then read an extract from Hon. Mr. Meighen's speech wherein the Solicitor General quoted from a speech which the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had made in 1903 as follows:—

"The motion, however, was pressed, and the late Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) himself took a part in the discussion. Here I shall quote the words of the late Prime Minister:

"I believe that everything in this matter was done fairly and well. We have no complaint from the British Government, and I therefore see no reason why the House should inquire into the expenditure of money which does not concern it.

Mr. Borden: I would like to know whether the right hon. gentleman is willing or not to have these purchases ventilated in the Committee of Public Accounts, as they might be if they were the ex-

penditure of this country.

The Prime Minister: Certainly not.

MR. MEIGHEN GARBLED SIR WILFRID'S SPEECH.

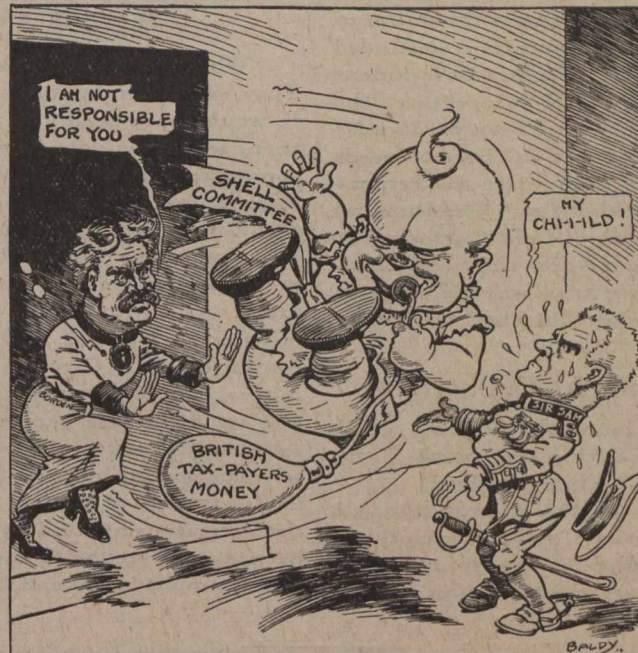
Sir Wilfrid added:

"There my friend the Solicitor General stopped—but I said more, and this is what I said:

The Prime Minister: Certainly not; my hon. friend has no reason to speak in that way. The Committee of Public Accounts are bound to investigate the expenditure of the money of the Canadian people, not the expenditure of money by the Imperial Government. But if my hon. friend or any one else has any charges to make that the Government has behaved in the manner suggested, he can have all the investigation he desires.

He could have had all the investigations which he desired. But no desire for investigation was ever expressed, no charge was made, no investigation was asked, and that is the difference between that day and this. To-day charges have been made, and I rise in my place as a member of Parliament to ask for an investigation."

DISOWNED



But Sir Sam Hughes says "It is my baby, I am the father of the Concern."

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHELL COMMITTEE WHICH REPORTED MONTHLY OR OFTENER TO THE MINISTER OF MILITIA.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier then quoted extracts from statements which the Right Hon. Mr. Borden made to the House on the 15th April, 1915 in regard to the Canadian Shell Committee.

"A committee was formed by the Minister of Militia in the early stages of the War, consisting at that time of Col. A Bertram, Chairman; Thos. Cantley, Esq.; Geo. W. Watts,

Esq.; E. Carnegie, Esq., representing the manufacturers; Col. T. Benson, Master General of Ordnance; Col. Greville Harston, Chief Inspector of Arms and Ammunition; and Lt.-Col. F. D. Lafferty, R.C.A., Superintendent of the Dominion Arsenal, representing the Department of Militia and Defence.

I have asked the chairman of that committee to prepare a report of their work for the purpose of showing what can be done by a business organization of this character, through the co-operation of business men in this country."

"The executive work of the committee has been very wisely entrusted to the chairman, Colonel Bertram, who reports weekly to the Minister of Militia and also to the committee when it meets (which is usually monthly) or more often at the call of the minister."

MEMBER OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT SAYS CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR SHELL COMMITTEE.

"But that is not all. Let me now see how the matter was viewed in Great Britain. I have the statement made by Lord Curzon, a member of the Imperial Government, upon this very point—upon the working of the committee and the working of the Canadian Government. These are the words spoken by Lord Curzon on June 23rd last:

In Canada the system adopted by the War Office