

acted as middleman and who purchased from the Kelly Co. In this way Mr. Thomas claimed he saved the Government \$180,000 on the trucks for the second contingent as compared with the price paid for the trucks for the first contingent. Mr. Thomas showed that it was not necessary to buy through agents, he bought direct from the manufacturer at the lowest manufacturer's price.

It will be apparent that Mr. Thomas' saving of \$180,000 meant that practically that amount was lost on the first purchases.

A BIG BLUNDER.

Although Mr. Thomas was supposed to be the adviser to the Commission in regard to all purchases of motor trucks,—and is, indeed, paid a commission of $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ on all purchases for his services,—in some way or other an order was placed by the Department in Canada for 150 bodies for the Kelly trucks at \$168 each equal to \$25,210 without his knowledge, and it transpired that these bodies were quite useless as they were made for two-ton trucks whereas the trucks ordered are three-ton capacity. To save these bodies being a dead loss to the Government, Thomas is trying to work off on the Kelly Co. for use on two-ton trucks for the French Government.

Housewives

Purchased without tender from the President of the Ottawa Conservative Association.

A housewife is a small piece of cloth arranged as to be tied up and contains thread, needles, twist, darning needles, darning cotton, etc. Each soldier is supposed to have one of these utility packages in his equipment. Without asking for tenders and without securing any competitive prices, the Government got into communication with Mr. Stewart McClenaghan of Ottawa, the owner and proprietor of The 2-Macs store and President of the Conservative Association for Ottawa, and asked him to give a price for supplying housewives. He quoted $53\frac{1}{4}c$ each and was immediately given an order for 30,000. In the following three months this was increased to 100,000, and the same price $53\frac{1}{4}c$ each was maintained.

According to Mr. McClenaghan's own statement his profit on these goods had been 24%, 16% of which he had charged to overhead expenses and 8% to clear profit. On April 13th, Mr. T. McNichol of the J. M. Garland Company, Ottawa, refused to produce their original invoices to show what they had paid for these goods. Why?

Burning of Clothing

Considerable criticism has been aimed at the Government in regard to the large amount of clothing which was burned at the closing of the Valcartier Camp in the Fall of 1914. Prominent