

ers that the old Shell Committee had been found wanting, that the members thereof were to be bounced, and the committee formed with a new look, stock and barrel. Things have not turned out as some of these papers wished. The old committee has not been censured and sent about its business, but commended. The committee has been split in two and added to each part, having certain allotted work to do. Some papers described the resignation of Colonel Cantley. Well, he has resigned his old position to become chairman of the new commission. The *Contract Record* ought in decency to apologise for its nasty insinuations. We give the story of the new formation as related in despatches from Ottawa, as follows:

The abolition of the shell committee and the continuation of a new body to be known as the imperial munitions board, were announced tonight. The board consists of J. W. Flavelle, Toronto, chairman, with executive and administrative powers; General Alex. Bertram, Ottawa, deputy chairman; Colonel David Carnegie, Ottawa; G. H. Dawson, Victoria; C. B. Gordon, of Montreal; J. A. Vallicourt, president of the Bank of Hochelaga, Montreal; E. R. Wood, Toronto.

The only members of the shell committee who have places on the imperial munitions board are the deputy chairman, General Bertram, and Colonel Carnegie.

Coincident with these changes is the establishment of a commission for the purpose of inquiring into "the supply and sufficiency of all materials in Canada required for the production of munitions of war and the best methods of conserving the same." Colonel Thomas Cantley, of New Glasgow, former member of the shell committee, is chairman of the commission. George W. Watts, of Toronto, and E. Carnegie, of Welland, also members of the former shell committee, are on this commission, together with Robert Hobson, of Hamilton; Hon. W. C. Edwards, of Ottawa, and Geo. C. Mackenzie, of the mines department, Ottawa.

The importance of establishing such a commission was brought to the attention of the government, it is stated, by Lionel Hichens, who succeeded D. A. Thomas, representative here of the British minister of munitions. In a letter to the prime minister from Mr. Hichens, the work of the shell committee is dealt with and its expansion involving a reorganization and division of work, are emphasized. The history of the shell committee is reviewed, and the administrative independence of the committee, so far as the government of Canada is concerned, is made clear.

Mr. Hichens' letter was made public tonight together with a memorandum in which the statement is made that the subject of reorganizing the shell committee was under consideration before the prime minister and the minister of militia left for England at the end of June. Mr. Hichens, it is added, is invested with full authority from the British government to deal with all such matters in consultation with the government of Canada. Mr. Hichens' letter is dated today. The changes above mentioned described by him as the logical consequence of the altered conditions attending shell manufacture, have been approved and will come into force as from tomorrow, November 30, under the authority of the minister of munitions and with the approval

of the Canadian government.

Mr. Hichens states that since coming to Canada he and his colleague, R. H. Brand, have at the request of Sir Robert Borden and General Sir Sam Hughes, concentrated their attention upon the problem of adaptation to changed conditions.

The necessity of a reorganization was generally recognized by all those most intimately connected with the shell committee, "and General Bertram was among the first to call our attention to the fact and to suggest that the new problems of administration on a greatly increased scale required for their proper direction an expanded organization."

Mr. Hichens states that the shell committee has met with remarkable success in dealing with a difficult task and the Canadian manufacturers have adapted themselves to a new industry with a readiness which he thinks remarkable. And altho as in England they have often been unable to live up to their original promises yet they have nothing to fear from a comparison with the early efforts of the firms of the highest standing in the land.

"Mr. Hichens points out that keen competition in shell manufacture is now the condition in Canada. The industry has grown enormously and is now the largest in the Dominion. Some 320 firms are now engaged therein. It has required the services of an army of one hundred thousand skilled workmen. It has led to the development of Canada's mineral resources. Canadian copper will soon be refined in Canada instead of the United States. Canadian zinc ores are now being electrically smelted here and brass will shortly be manufactured on a considerable scale.

Mr. Hichens said that realizing the necessity for reorganization, to take care of the expanded industry, the members of the board presented their resignations to allow the construction of the new body.

ENLARGEMENT OF SCOTIA PLANT.

Owing to the increasing demand for the products of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company it has been found necessary largely to increase the works both at Sydney Mines and Trenton. It was stated recently in the press that Scotia during the year had produced a hundred and eighty thousand tons of steel. Had that been the case there would have been no necessity for present further enlargement of the plant. Scotia produced a hundred and twenty thousand tons of steel and in order that it may add twenty or more thousand tons to that quantity the plant is being extended. The orders presently on hand call for about a hundred and eighty thousand tons of steel. We judge therefore that Scotia has orders to keep the plants fully employed for the next fifteen months.

Here are a few details as to what the company is doing: Contracts have been awarded and ground already broken for the erection of a new 60 ton open hearth furnace of the latest type. This furnace will be equipped with patent water cooled ports and port ends and will have every improvement which practice has demonstrated to be of value. This furnace it is hoped to have in commission within twelve weeks. It should also interest readers to know that the company are making further additions to their heavy shell forging plant at New