

ings and specifications were shown and explained, after which the meeting assured the minister that the work could be done in Canada.

On the 8th of September, 1914, at a meeting held by the minister at the Dominion Arsenal, the following committee was appointed to organize the work throughout the Dominion:

Colonel A. Bertram, Chairman; Thos. Cantley, Esq., Gen. W. Watts, Esq., E. Carnegie, Esq., representing the manufacturers; Colonel T. Benson, Master General of Ordnance; Colonel Oreville Harston, C. I. Arms and Ammunition; Lt.-Col. F. D. Lafferty, R.C.A., Superintendent of the Dominion Arsenal, representing the Department of Militia and Defence.

Lt.-Col. Lafferty undertook the technical instruction of the manufacturers in shell construction, and it was decided that the examination and inspection would be carried out by the chief inspector of arms and ammunition.

About two weeks after the organization of the committee, Mr. David Carnegie, of London, Eng., was appointed by the minister as ordnance adviser to the shell committee.

When it is recalled that at the time in question, the Minister of Militia was engaged in the colossal task of raising, training and equipping a contingent of Canadians for the "front," it is remarkable that he should have found time to think of the many factories throughout the Dominion which were idle and to devise such an efficient means of helping them and the British War Office. It is somewhat flattering to find that the British Government has recently followed similar plans for utilizing the manufacturers throughout England for the manufacture of shells.

The minister in selecting manufacturers to work with officers of his own department, combined the commercial and technical ability requisite and the results of his choice have proved eminently successful.

To Colonel Bertram belongs the praise for the harmonious and efficient work of the committee.

3.—WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

The work of the committee in the early stages was that of formulating definite plans of procedure. They determined that, as far as possible, all the materials employed in the shells would be made in Canada; up to that time, for instance, no Canadian steel had been used for the production of ammunition.

To Colonel Cantley the committee is under obligation for having rapidly installed and equipped plant for producing the first steel made in Canada for shell manufacture.

With the exception of the copper bands all parts of the shells now produced are made in Canada, and it is hoped that, before long, these also will be included amongst the Canadian industries.

Another important decision made by the committee was to supply to the shell assembling manufacturers, all the component parts of shells, free of charge. By this means many of the smaller manufacturers have been relieved of the financial strain of carrying a heavy stock of raw materials.

It was also decided that uniform prices would be paid for the same articles, thus eliminating unhealthy competition with its risks of faulty workmanship.

Perhaps an equally important decision was the appointment of an inspection company to deal with all shell components; this has taken the entire responsibility of inspection from the shell assembling manufacturers and has also given the shell committee the opportunity of satisfying themselves beyond any doubt that the component parts of shells are correct before the finished shell passes into the hands of the Government inspector.

Many other minor details regarding insurance, shipping, financing, etc., were decided, which have proved to be of great help in carrying on the work of the committee.

4.—EXECUTIVE WORK.

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.

The work consists of controlling what might be regarded as a huge combination of factories, in which various contracts are being executed to British War office specifications, which entails constant attention and queries regarding the selection of suitable factories, the placing of contracts, instructing manufacturers in the art, inspecting the parts made, and the payment and auditing of accounts, etc.

Before contracts are placed, the ability of the firm to carry out the work is fully investigated. If there is any question as to their plant being unsuitable, a competent inspector is sent to report upon the state of the factory.