

have it included in Hansard as part of my speech. The report comprises a great deal more than can be made public. The tables and statistics which were attached to it I have necessarily omitted, because we would not even ask the War Office for permission to publish them. I have struck out a few words in one place and made a few eliminations of matters that I thought, in the public interest, ought not to be made public. But, subject to that, I would like to give the report to the House, and I think hon. members will find it is of interest. The report is as follows:

REPORT ON THE FORMATION AND WORK OF THE SHELL COMMITTEE BY DAVID CARNEGIE, M.I.C.E., ORDNANCE ADVISER.

To Sir Robert Borden,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.

INTRODUCTION.

Soon after the declaration of war, the hon. Minister of Militia, General Hughes, was asked by the British Government if he would place contracts on their behalf, for arms and ammunition, with the United States.

After having arranged certain contracts there for small arms, etc., he received an inquiry for 200,000 shrapnel shells, empty, in equal numbers of eighteen and fifteen-pounders.

Knowing that it would take about eleven years to complete such a contract in the Dominion arsenal with their existing equipment, he conceived the idea of utilizing the engineering factories throughout the Dominion for shell manufacture and immediately set in motion forces to accomplish this object.

It was with some reluctance that the manufacturers, at the call of the minister, responded to his suggestion, even though at that time many of their factories were practically idle.

The remarkable ability shown by the various manufacturers in converting their machine tools rapidly, to produce shells of the highest quality, not only surprised the Minister of Militia and those instructed by him to direct the manufacture, but convinced him that this new industry could be extended to the manufacture of the complete filled and fixed ammunition, including the shells, brass cartridge cases, primers, clips, cordite, powder, pellets and fuses. As a matter of fact, within a phenomenally short period, all these different parts, excepting the fuses (which are about to be manufactured), are now being produced in Canada, giving labour to thousands of men in different parts of the Dominion who would have been otherwise out of employment.

Details of the committee's formation, constitution and operation are given in the following pages. Tabulated facts of the materials used in the contracts and their value are also recorded together with note on the progress and nature of the work involved in the various contracts handled by the committee.

2.—FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Before actually forming the committee, the Minister of Militia asked Colonel Greville Harston and Lt. Colonel F. D. Lafferty, to get in touch with all manufacturers in Canada, who they thought could make the component parts for shrapnel shells. He particularly emphasized his desire to have the steel manufactured in Canada.

As a result, the following manufacturers were called to Ottawa to meet General Hughes, on the 2nd of September, 1914:

Col. A. Bertram, of Messrs. J. Bertram Son & Co., Dundas, Ontario; Geo. W. Watts, Esq., of the Can. Gen. Elec. Co., Toronto, Ontario; The Ingersoll Rand Drill Co., of Sherbrooke, Que.; Goldie, McCulloch Co of Oshawa, Ont.; E. Carnegie, Esq., of the Electric Steel & Metals Company, Ltd., Welland, Ont.

At a meeting of the above, the whole question was fully discussed. Lt. Col. Lafferty described in detail the manufacture of the shells and their component parts, and Col. Greville Harston dealt with the system of inspection. Draw-