

## HAND OF ALLISON THRUST INTO TILL

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Regarding the relationship between the minister and Col. Allison, the character of both men must be considered. He desired to keep prominent the fact that Col. Allison was a man of business and of a business which was of such a nature as to make him very useful to the minister in connection with the events which occurred after the beginning of the war.

Allison a Broker. Col. Allison, continued Mr. Henderson, was a broker, openly and avowedly. He had been a broker for many years. He would not have been any use to the minister unless he had had experience. Col. Allison was not a newly-made broker for the purpose of the war.

"Concerning the minister," said Mr. Henderson, "little need be said, for you know him so well. May I say in passing that whatever was the thought of Sir Sam Hughes before the commencement of this investigation, it surely must be clear to all of us that he is a man of tremendous business capacity, an extraordinary judge of men and a man who has successfully done his job in connection with the war."

It was also true, said Mr. Henderson, that at the time General Hughes' staff was quite inadequate under the circumstances.

Glant in Business. Mr. Henderson said that after the outbreak of the war there was an attempt to discredit the minister of justice. One of the methods was to connect him with persons whose reputations were said to be doubtful. Col. Allison was one of these.

Mr. Henderson said that the minister had made the mistake of associating himself with a man who was a man of business capacity such as to justify the confidence the minister reposed in him. They were first closely associated in the fight over the control of the Long Sault water power. General Hughes then discovered Allison to be a man who could do things in the United States, because he had connections with big men. He had the confidence of some of the biggest men over there.

"When the war is over," said Mr. Henderson, "Col. Allison will appear as a giant in business compared to the little men who have made these charges."

Borden Not Consulted. The minister, he said, had decided Col. Allison and Gen. Brain should be of a purchasing commission in the United States. He was complete in Col. Allison. Those in authority at Ottawa thought it proper to make such arrangements.

Sir William Meredith asked if he thought Gen. Hughes had communicated with him. He thought not.

He thought Gen. Hughes' reputation had not been overruled. He had not been made to the promise. Hughes was at Valcartier. He believed he had been at Ottawa when they were being heard.

Proceeding, Mr. Henderson said that the policy of the Canadian Government was to appoint agents in the United States, and he understood that they were agents in the United Kingdom.

When the inquiry commenced, he was led to believe that Col. Allison was a man of business capacity such as to justify the confidence the minister reposed in him.

"I say now," he added, "that I have yet to know of one single transaction which is discredited. I heard of the Morrisburg Tin Plate Works. It is all to his credit and not to his discredit."

"Mr. Carvell," he went on, "came here to make a brave show. He said he had a whole bagful of documents of evidence obtained from the editors, and anonymous letters. No one can imagine a more miserable display. He alleged that Col. Allison was not only a man of affairs, but a man who did things, and who deserved the confidence of Gen. Hughes. Taking up the matter of Col. Allison's influence over Gen. Hughes, Mr. Henderson said that he undoubtedly had a certain influence over him. As far as the character of the influence was concerned, Mr. Henderson said he thought it was safe to say that no man in this world could have any influence with the minister of the type of Gen. Hughes, which could be irregularly used."

Statements of Harris. Mr. Henderson then took up the question of what influence, if any, the minister had with the shell committee. The evidence had shown, he said, that the members of the shell committee did their own business free from any influence. It had been said that the general Hughes had used his influence to get contracts for his own country. It was a proper thing that the shell committee should be distributed as widely as possible throughout the country. It was a proper thing that the shell committee should be distributed as widely as possible throughout the country. It was a proper thing that the shell committee should be distributed as widely as possible throughout the country.

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