

the manufacturers were instructed to ship the goods direct to Ottawa, but to send the bills to the office of J. Wesley Allison, the Manhattan Hotel, New York.

Allison Crowd Were to Get Commission of \$1.10 Per Set.

The work was proceeded with and in a short time a shipment of these Webb equipments were made and the bills sent as directed. In due time the second shipment was ready, but the manufacturer not having been paid for his first shipment and not feeling any too secure in looking to the Allison crowd for payment had a representative come to Ottawa to look into the matter. This representative on reaching Ottawa discovered, much to his surprise, that the Government was being charged \$5.50 for this Webb Equipment and not \$4.40 the price the manufacturer was charging Allison and his crowd.

Cabinet Ministers Powerless.

The representative of this manufacturing company protested. The matter was eventually brought to the attention of Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice and Hon. Arthur Meighen, Solicitor General, but without success, as these gentlemen stated they were powerless to act in the matter. The representative then informed the Government that in view of this exorbitant Middleman's price which was being charged the Government, his Company would be compelled to in future either deal direct with the Government or cancel the order. They were then informed that there did not appear any other way to proceed except in the way already outlined. The manufacturers, at once, told the Government they could not deliver the goods under these conditions and immediately cancelled the order.

The Government not being willing to buy this Webb equipment except through Allison and his gang in New York, proceeded to purchase from other manufacturers who were making what is known as the Oliver Equipment. Thousands and thousands of these Oliver Equipments have been thus manufactured and purchased by the Canadian Government. The price charged for the first year of the war was \$6.75 and \$7.25 a set. Why such an exorbitant price was paid nobody knows. On leaving Canada the soldiers were equipped with this Oliver equipment. They used it in England for training purposes, but before the Canadian soldiers left England for France the Oliver equipment was discarded and the Webb equipment supplied by the British Government was given to the Canadian soldiers instead.

The Price of Every Oliver Equipment Lost.

Thus the summing up of the whole story is that the Canadian