Ottawa Letter

Graft in Shell Contracts Discussed in the Commons-Investigation Refused by the Government.

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

* Ottawa, Jan. 28.-The parliamentary week-end finds the House of Commons still laboring with the debate on the address. The Senate, which never has a great deal to do—and nothing at all until the House passes some legislation—has temporarily given up the ghost and adjourned until March 8. It must and a journed until March 5. It must be stated, however, that parliament's preliminary canter has been more in-teresting than usual. During the week the so-called political truce has been forgotten, and guns, both big and little, have limbered up with resultant explos-ions from both sides of the House. One have limbered up with resultant explosions from both sides of the House. One government supporter has complained that the opposition, despite the supposed armistice, had used the "poisoned gas of misrepresentation." Undoubted by the week has seen a good deal of "shell" fire. The opposition, more particularly F. B. Carvell, poured in a great many facts and figures of more or less reliability, no doubt to establish the necessity of an inquiry into that famous body over which tieneral Bertram—now a knight—presided. On the other hand the government has just as persistently refused to act. The ministers stand firmly behind the assumption that the shell committee was an imperial body and therefore beyond the purview of the Dominion parliament.

February 2, 1916

Hughes and Shell Committee

Nevertheless General Sir Sam Hughes roudly announced that it was his 'baby.'' and that he was going to 'stick to it.'' He defended the com-"stick to it." He defended the com-mittee along the usual lines adopted by him, declaring that it had done its work well, and that as a matter of fact Can-ada had even Great Britain beaten in the game of producing shells. In view of the criticisms levelled at the view of the criticisms levelled at the committee, the minister undoubtedly made a wise and judicious speech. He handed out a ''jolly'' for everybody in sight. Liberals who complained that there had been partizanship in connection with the organization of the overseas forces were assured that the majority of the officers at the front were of their political faith. Sir Sam had something nice to say about everybody in any way concerned with the war, and altho he said but little that was new, he managed to say it in such a way as to disarm criticism. to disarm criticism

Carvell's Serious Charges

Mr. Carvell, while dealing more particularly with the details of the work of the shell committee in connection with which he charged private and political profiteering as well as connivance at inordingte profits; told a story of how the farmers of New Brunswick had been fleeced by a middleman, which does not reflect much credit on those concerped. After reviewing the details of the transaction, Mr. Carvell said: "I publicly accuse the department of agriculture of having during the year 1915 deliberately, and with the knowledge of the minister of marine and faireries, so manipulated the contracts for hay in New Brunswick that his political friends were placed in a position to filch \$45,000 either out of the money which the government is handling as a sacred trust on behalf of the British government or from the pockets of the farmers of New Brunswick. I go further; I here publicly accuse the minister of agriculture of allowing the contracts to be manipulated so that the Atlantic Hay Company filehed \$35,000." Mr. Carvell said he was not dispused to blance Mr. Burrell as much as Hon. J. D. Hazen, who had jockeyed him into this position in the interests of his political friends.

The Hay Deal Mr. Carvell, while dealing more par-ticularly with the details of the work

The Hay Deal

Mr. Carvell's story of how this was done was a long one, but the essential facts can be summarized. The Atlantic Hay Company was formed with D. F. Smith, a former Conservative candidate, at the head to buy hay thru the medium of the agricultural department for the Imperial government. They succeeded

in getting a contract at \$23 per ton. After the contract was let an embargo was placed upon the export of hay from New Brunswick. As a result the farmers had no recourse but to sell to the Atlantic Hay Company. To the farmers the company gave from \$11 to \$13 per ton, while from the government it got \$23 per ton. At the same time the got \$23 per ton. At the same time farmers of Quebec province were rec-ing \$15 per ton for hay sold to government. Mr. Carvell came to Ot tawa and protested, but without result.

An independent hay company wrote stating to the government that if given a contract it would pay the farmers \$15 per ton. An evasive answer came back. When the House opened Mr. Carvell said he went to Mr. Burrell, who had said: "For God's sake do not bring the matter up in the House." "Mr. Burrell," he added. "went to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal whip and asked them to pull me off and not allow me to tell this dirty, miserable stealing story. My farmers were bled for \$50,000 for the henefit of the political friends of the, minister of marine and fisheries. That's what they call saying the Empire. It's on a par with the way Foster and Garland saved it."

Hon. Martin Burrell was exceedingly wrothy with the member for Carleton for his observations in regard to the bay contracts. While admitting that independent hav company wrote

for his observations in regard to the hay contracts. While admitting that it had been suggested to the opposition

that it might not be desirable in the interests of the war office and the public to have a discussion, he had neverasked him "for God's sake" not to have a discussion in the House. He declared that apart from the reason mentioned above he had no fear of the matter being debated. Going into the details of the centract with the Atlantic Hay Company, the minister stated that no complaints had been received from the farmers of New Brunswick as to the prices they had received for their hay. The department was not infallthe prices they had received for their hay. The department was not infallible and might possibly have made the mistake of paying a little too much to the Atlantic Hay Company, but a change had been made in the arrangement. As the result of the new agreement the company would accept a profit of one dollar per ton, an adjustment of the accounts to be made later.

The minister, much to the delight of

Fairweather's Mid-Winter Sale

This year you may take full advantage of this great purchasing event of the season. If you are coming to Winnipeg during Bonspiel Week, visit the store personally. If not write for a copy of our Fur Sale Bulletin

FAIRWEATHER'S FURS

At Greatly Reduced Prices

Without doubt the finest assortments that Fairweathers have ever had at this period of the Fur-Selling Season-made up when skins and other materials were at lowest market prices, and on which present selling prices were based. Another season you may have to pay 25 per cent, to 100 per cent, more for equal quality.

WE PAY EXPRESS CHARGES

And Guarantee to Satisfy

remittance accompanies your order, when remittance accompanies your order, goods are shipped the same day, express prepaid. If same are unsatisfactory on arrival you may return them at our expense, and your money will be cheerfully refunded. Surely this is the guarantee of satisfaction. He well advised and secure best choice when the stocks are complete.

Write for our Fur Sale Bulletin

ave prepared, in catalogue form, a list of the very special values e offering—the same bargains from which our Winnipeg customers i who buy percensity at our store. Secure this and taxe full ad-vantage of the sale. A postal request will bring it to you.

RUSSIAN MUSKRAT COAT

97.50

'39.50

MUSKRAT LINED COATS

operial brising Coats of to or rioth shells, hest Muski or and lapels of fine o perially priced at \$75.00. learing at 56.50

150.00

RACCOON COATS

68.00

RED FOX SET

46.50

Pagular \$23.00 17.50

BLACK LYNX SET

'70.00

MUSERAT LINED COATS

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR STORE IF IN WINNIPES DURING BONSPIEL WEEK

Fairweather & Co. Limited

297-299 Portage Avenue WINNIPEG

INCUBATOR AND BROODER FOR \$13

30 Egg INCUBATOR 130 (hick Brooder 90 Freight

WISCONSIN INCUBATOR CO. Box 238 ,

