

admission of guilt—an admission that the worst has not been told. Never since Confederation have so many stories of trickery, trafficking and grafting been afloat.

That the owner of a planing mill in an Ontario town went out after a shell-box contract. His application brought the usual answer that all contracts had been let. Imagine his surprise when a shipping clerk in a dry goods house in his own town secured a contract, put up a building, completed his contract and got a renewal. The shipping clerk had no plant, no experience and no business rating.

Mr. Murphy quoting from the Contract Record of Nov. 9th, 1915, in regard to the contract for shells which was given to Mr. Jones:

Mr. Jones, like many another, went to Ottawa with a tender for shells. When the contracts were let they went as usual to the favored few and Mr. Jones was not of them.

Unlike many another, Mr. Jones did not throw up his hands and go home. Instead he went straight to Sir Robert Borden. The Premier was not inclined to listen to a disappointed tenderer, but when Mr. Jones turned to the door with a decisive "Very well, I'll give my statement to the press," he was invited to call again in a couple of days.

He called again and got an order.

Hon. Mr. Murphy's concluding paragraph was:

The first and paramount duty of this Parliament is to provide a ligature that will stop the country's bleeding. That ligature can take only the form of an investigating committee, and, as one of the representatives of the people of this country, I now ask this Government to appoint such a committee without one moment's further delay.

Hon. Chas. Murphy, in the House of Commons, January 16th, 1916.

Mr. F. B. Carvell, M.P., Carleton, N.B.

The Shell Committee.

Have we not a right to call the Government to strictest account, not only for every dollar they are handling as trustees for the British people, but also for every dollar they are handling as administrators for the Canadian people?

Speaking more particularly of the work of the Shell Committee, Mr. Carvell stated:

Mr. Cudlip of the York and Cornwall Cotton Company of St. Johns, got a contract for 25,000 shrapnel shells and immediately went to James Flemming & Son, the Phoenix Foundry Company, an old-established firm. The Flemming people had to pay a commission of 10 per cent.

It, (the Shell Committee), is a Canadian committee, created by the Canadian Government, and under the control of the Canadian Government for all practical purposes. I go further and say that it is a political committee of the Conservative party of Canada, created

in order to work out what they think best for the interests of the Conservative party of this country.

That there never was a time when the fate of this Empire trembled in the balance as it did during these three months, April, May and June of 1915.

That during this time there were dozens and dozens of big manufacturing establishments who wanted to do work for the Empire who went to the Shell Committee and demonstrated that they were in a position to do the work more expeditiously than anybody else, and who, because they did not have political influence, were unable to get an order, while millions of dollars' worth of work was given out to little mushroom companies, organized, operated and controlled by Conservative politicians and Conservative voters all over Canada.

There is a firm of foundrymen and machinists in my town, (Woodstock, N.B.) called the Dunbar Engine and Foundry Company, men who can build, and who in the last twenty years, have built anything at all; men who have built logging engines which are nearly as large and more intricate than an ordinary railway locomotive.

They wrote to the Shell Committee and asked for a contract and received a reply from General Bertram dated February 27th stating:

"We have already allotted to the various companies in Canada all the shells which we have contracts for from the British War Office, and regret to advise that we will not be letting further orders for at least three months."

Another company in Ontario about the same time wrote General Bertram and received the following reply:

"Would state that for the present there is no further order to allot, and we have sufficient factories now equipped to carry on the orders we have in hand."

On July 8th, General Bertram wrote Messrs. Dunbar Engine and Foundry Company of Woodstock, N.B., a letter which stated:

"Regret to advise that the situation at present is that we have a much larger machining capacity than our contracts call for and cannot offer any encouragement whatever."

Mr. Carvell proceeding, stated:

I would not mind them, (the Shell Committee) deceiving—I cannot use a milder term than that—if it were necessary, and if they would admit that they were placing orders with big manufacturers; but when they deliberately play the game of politics, when their friends all over Canada were organizing mushroom companies by the score, without plant, without location, without material, and many of them without money, and were receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of orders; surely when I have proved that, I have gone a long way towards proving my assertion that this was a political game.

Mr. Carvell proceeding gave some evidence on this point and quoted a number of mushroom companies organized and receiving orders at the