

Department for which no vouchers were produced. He says he employed two men to buy for him, but when the matter was investigated by the Public Accounts Committee these two parties were in the United States and were not produced to give evidence. The testimony adduced showed that many of the horses bought through Mr. Foster were unfit for military use. Lamé, halt, blind, spavined and knee-sprung horses were accepted, to say nothing of horses of hoary and uncertain age.

Motor Trucks.—

Motor trucks for the soldiers were bought in wholesale quantities at retail prices—at the same price as a man buying one truck would pay. In this way the Borden Government overpaid \$180,000. A remarkable feature in connection with the purchase of these trucks was that men selected to do the buying for the Government actually acted both as buyers for the Government and sellers to it.

Binoculars.—

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons submitted the following report regarding the purchase of binoculars for Canadian officers.

"From the evidence it appears that a number of binocular glasses were of poor quality, low range and inferior efficiency, but passed inspection and were paid for at excessive prices and this was due to misrepresentation and inadequate inspection. The evidence in this matter showed that as respects one lot of 160 glasses the middleman who sold to the Government bought the glasses for an average price of \$30.00 each and sold them to the Government at \$58.00. One pair of glasses was bought as low as \$9.00 and turned over to the Government for \$58.00.

Bandages.—

A Conservative member of Parliament, Mr. W. F. Garland, of Ottawa, worked a dishonest scheme on the Government by having a clerk in his employ act as middleman in the purchase of bandages. This clerk got orders amounting to \$41,000 on which there was a profit of 30%. There is no doubt whatever that that illegitimate profit was intended to go into the pockets of the Conservative M.P., or his Drug Company, notwithstanding the independence of Parliament Act which provides that no member of Parliament shall be interested in financial dealings with the Government. As a result, however, of the disclosures made before the Public Accounts Committee, the young clerk refunded the whole of the profit to the Government.

Drugs.—

Madame Plamondon of Quebec, a sister of Mr. Albert Seigny, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, sold drugs and medical supplies to the camp at Valcartier to the amount of \$23,300. An expert druggist, 45 years in business, swore that there were scandalous overcharges ranging from 70% to 300%.

J. Wesley Allison's Works.

The mention of the name, without explanation is sufficient.

Rotten Boots for the Soldiers.—

Inferior, unsuitable and in some instances rotten boots were supplied to our soldiers.

General Alderson, Commander of the Canadian troops cabled the Borden Government:—

"The boot-wear being issued to the Contingent are not suitable for rough wear in wet weather. Please cable instructions for purchase of boots here, if we can obtain them.

Hughes replied:—

"Re boots, 48,000 pairs overshoes already shipped. Will these meet your requirements?"

To this idiotic message Alderson replied:—

"It has been found that overshoes do not compensate for faulty construction of boots. Some pairs are useless after ten days' wear."

Failing to get any satisfaction from the Government at Ottawa, General Alderson equipped the 35,000 Canadian soldiers of the First Contingent with British made boots.

Sir Sam Hughes has stubbornly held that he knows more about army boots than anybody else, and the manufacture of these has gone on in Canada in the millions. Yet no Canadian boots have as yet been worn to War. They are piled up in England. Canadian boots are pronounced unfit to stand the cobbled roads of France, yet we make them and ship them and pile them up in England. Two or three months ago, we understand, a consignment of Canadian boots was sent across to France to have a test made of them. We do not know the result. These are the only Canadian boots that have reached the front. Why could not Canada have made, from the first, a boot that would have met the needs of the case? There was nothing to prevent it. Canadian manufacturers of boots are just as good as there are in the world. Could we not have booked orders from France and Russia once we had shown our ability to make them? But no; Sir Sam knew more about boots than any other man on earth, and he stuck to his opinions.

Canadian Equipment Scrapped in England.—

Canada has sent transport waggons to England by the hundreds, yet only four have ever gone to France. Why? Because in the narrow roads and lanes of France the Canadian quarter-locking waggons are of little use, more particularly as they are not standardized, and if anything goes wrong with one of them no repairs are obtainable.

Take the Eaton Machine Gun Battery. Nothing came of it at all—every dollar was a waste—because nothing was standardized. The whole splendid outfit lies piled up to-day at Fulford in England, an evidence of rank bad management at Ottawa.

Or take bicycles. Thousands of wheels have been bought by the Canadian Government and sent to England. They have got no farther. They are not standardized. They would be useless at the front, because neither tires nor any other part can be replaced from stores. They should not have been bought and sent, or if bought and sent, a thorough system of supplies should have been arranged to support them in the field. They lie now in England piled up in thousands like many useless things.

There are, we believe, 30,000 leather Oliver equipments stored up in England. Canada bought them; the War has no use for them. Canada has since then bought 250,000 leather equipments of another pattern, which will probably go into the discard likewise.