

manufacturers, and the minister of trade and commerce sent for the representatives of these industries to ascertain to what extent they felt themselves in a position to take care of large army orders in the near future. The members of the deputation assured Sir George that they could fill all such orders with reasonable dispatch.

Contracts have been let to various manufacturers in Canada to supply 15 and 18 pr. shrapnel shells and component parts for same. These orders have been very widely placed and are for large quantities. They will keep various departments of the companies in full operation during the winter. The president of one company, for instance, tells *The Monetary Times* that the shells are forged under new modern hydraulic forging presses, which are equal in power and efficiency to any on this continent or in Europe. His two plants are fully equipped to produce any size or class of shells or projectiles, which may, at any time, be required by the government, militia or navy department. It is at this plant that all the forged steel parts for the Ross rifles are made. To handle these orders on behalf of the Dominion government, acting for the Imperial government, a shell committee has been appointed with headquarters in Montreal. The members of the committee are: Colonel A. Bertram, chairman, Thomas Cantley, George W. Watts, E. Carnegie, Colonel T. Benson, Lieut.-Colonel F. D. Lafferty and Lieut.-Colonel G. Harston. The orders given up to October 16 were valued at about \$2,000,000.

On November 17, it was intimated unofficially in Montreal that in the near future some business on a large scale would be placed. Requisitions for additional materials had been received, and tenders were to be requested of manufacturers shortly.

Big Order for Shirts.

To make a bid for the British government contract for 1,000,000 shirts, valued at about \$1,250,000, forty of the shirt making firms in Canada combined efforts. The contract was awarded to them to the extent of four-fifths of the contract, or for 800,000 of the 1,000,000 shirts. The 200,000 remaining were given out among the independent companies remaining.

The "combine" purchased all the flannel available in Canada and ordered \$700,000 worth from New York. The Canadian shirt makers were anxious to get the contract in order to keep it in Canada so that plants might be kept working. It was admitted that the order was an opportunity to check shrinkage in commercial business.

The executive officers of the "combine" have been in communication with the French government, who are prepared to place an order in Canada for 500,000 shirts. It is not likely that this order can be taken on until after January 1st. The Canadian government allows five shirts per man in its equipment contracts. The British estimate is a new shirt every two weeks.

A large boot contract for the British government may be handled in the same way. A co-operative association which will be known as the Canadian Shoe Manufacturers' Export Association has been formed at Montreal. The company, which embraces the leading shoe manufacturers, will make an effort to obtain a portion of the shoe orders now being placed by the Imperial government. To this end they are sending Mr. A. R. Angus, of the Ames-Holden-McCready Company, and Mr. Oscar Dufresne, of Dufresne and Locke, to interview the War Office in London.

This group of shoe dealers will submit a proposition to the Imperial government for the manufacture within two months of a million pairs of military boots.

Mr. Stobart, the British government's special purchasing agent, has commenced enquiries regarding the likelihood of the immediate availability of large quantities of lumbermen's socks and other warm footgear for the troops at the front.

Purchase of Horses.

In the purchase of horses, the British government has been active in Canada. The authorities announced that they would pay a maximum average of \$175 each. When business commenced it was found that the quality of mounts varied, so that from \$150 to \$200 was paid, but an average for each day's inspections of \$175 was maintained. Taking \$175 as the average price, the cost of horses to the British and Canadian governments has been about \$3,850,000, and more are to be bought.

Both Britain and France plan to buy freely from Canada and the United States in the near future. Purchasing areas are said to have been divided between the two allied nations. France will buy from the Southern States and ship via Gulf ports, while Britain will draw from the Northern States and Canada and ship from Atlantic ports.

Mr. Borden's estimates gave \$200 as the price of horses for the Canadian government. The Saskatchewan government purchased 1,500 horses as a gift to the Imperial authorities.

Over a million dollars worth of field glasses were required, and as far as is known these can not be supplied by Canadian firms. Five hundred thousand knives, with a can-opener attachment, are required, but apparently cannot be supplied by Canadian houses. These orders have probably gone to the United States.

Men Who Are Placing Orders.

The names of the members of the sub-committee of the cabinet handling the war orders of the Dominion government are not available, officially.

Answering certain complaints recently as to partisanship in handing out war orders, a member of the Canadian government said: "It is not a question of anyone securing a contract these days. It is a question of how we can get them filled, as there is work enough for all industries turning out the stuff we need. But rapidity in filling contracts is one of the chief factors which we have to consider. The firm which can turn out the materials quickest has the best chance."

Tenders for the supply of motor-trucks for the second Canadian contingent have been received and are being dealt with at Ottawa. These tenders, which call for trucks of high power and capacity, are under consideration by a committee appointed by the Minister of Militia, consisting of Honorary Colonels the Hon. George Taylor, John Eaton and W. K. MacNaught; Honorary Major MacQuarrie, Messrs. Owen Thomas and T. A. Russell, Colonel Hurdman, and Quartermaster General Macdonald.

Orders were placed by the Dominion government with the Russell Motor Car Company in November for the assembling of forty armored automobiles equipped with quick-firing guns.

Provincial Government Buying.

The orders for 200,000 pounds of evaporated apples, placed by the Ontario government in the province, gave much needed assistance to the evaporating industry. The order was valued at \$12,000 and 100,000 pounds of the apples are to be a gift to the British Navy, the other

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