

COL. ALLISON GOES INTO WITNESS BOX

Testifies Before Commission on Purchase of Colt Revolvers.

MAY PRODUCE BOOKS

Declares Himself Willing That Bank Books be Examined.

By a Staff Reporter.
OTTAWA, April 29.—Col. J. Wesley Allison made his first appearance as a witness since his arrival in Ottawa before the Davidson Commission this morning. The "Man from Morrisburg," accompanied by his counsel, Geo. T. Henderson, arrived bright and early. He looked well enough to stand quite a siege in the witness box.

Commissioner Sir Charles Davidson wanted particularly to question Col. Allison in regard to evidence given by him last autumn as to the purchase of Colt revolvers for the militia department. On that occasion, Col. Allison said he had nothing to do with the matter and subsequently papers and orders in connection with the purchase had been placed thru Allison.

When Allison was called, John Thompson, government counsel, stated that, on Jan. 3, he (Allison) had sworn that he had not sold any pistols to the Canadian government and had not made any profits in connection with such a transaction; subsequently, however, he had sworn that a commission had been paid to Allison by his company for his "work at large."

Commissioner Davidson considered the interview between Sir Sam Hughes, Mr. Skinner of the Colt Company and himself, at which the purchase of revolvers was decided upon, he (Allison) had stated that the question of a commission for himself was not to be considered in connection with purchase made for the Dominion Government. Subsequently he had made a general arrangement with the Colts as to commission on goods sold to the French and other governments, but to Canada sales were not included in this arrangement. Col. Allison said that the arrangement with the Colts was not definite, but \$25,000 to \$40,000 had been mentioned.

Examined as to the 1,000 pistols ordered thru him in September, 1914, Col. Allison said they were shipped to him at Waddington, New York, and then sent to Ottawa, or Valcartier. This arrangement was made because the Colt Co. would not undertake delivery on account of the neutrality laws. Arrangements as to shipment were made, he said, mostly by telegraph or by telephone.

Wanted Another Sale.
Col. Allison stated that later on the Colt people wanted to sell more pistols to Canada and asked him to see Gen. Hughes. This was before he had arranged to receive a commission. At this point the witness said: "The endorsement of the minister of militia was a great benefit to me in dealing with other representatives of other governments. There was no way in which I could estimate the value of his endorsement."

Witness then stated that the amount of commission he had received from the Colt Co. was approximately \$12,000—of this he received \$2,000 when in France and \$8,000 on this side of the Atlantic. He had not paid any portion of this commission to anyone else. Neither had he made any gifts or presents in connection with the transaction.

"Was Canada specifically excluded in connection with the payment of commissions?"
"So far as I know," replied Allison. "Why did you decline to accept a part of the commission offered?"
"Because I wanted it distinctly un-

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derstood that I should not receive any commission in connection with purchases made by Canada." Witness stated that he had spent some time about, and his expenses, probably, amounted to about what he had received from the Colt Co.

No Further Commission.
He had other contracts, however, including one for the Canada Car Foundry Co. Allison asserted that his business to date with the Colt Co. had been closed up and there was no possibility of him getting any additional commission from that company unless he made further contracts.

Sir Charles Davidson suggested that Allison's bank books, etc., should be brought from New York in order to trace the commissions received by Allison. Mr. Henderson said Col. Allison was willing that they should be produced. The enquiry was adjourned until Saturday next.

A NOVEL FEATURE AT LOEW'S THEATRE

Ernest Evans and His Society Circus and Ballroom Ballet Here.

HEADS SPLENDID BILL

Elaborate Costumes and Scenic Spectacle Will Be Presented This Week.

An elaborate and decidedly novel feature at Loew's Yonge Street Theatre the coming week will be Ernest Evans and his Society Circus and Ballroom Ballet. Mr. Evans, favorite of New York's "400," recognized by metropolitan society as the leading exponent of the art of modern dancing, will present his famous society circus and ballroom ballet, which is readily the most sumptuous and pretentious collection of dance numbers that has yet been staged before the theatre public.

Surrounded by his twelve beautiful society dancers, Mr. Evans offers an exhibition of grace and a spectacle of scenic and costume grandeur that is far ahead of anything of its kind that has ever appeared on the vaudeville or musical comedy stage.

The costumes represent an outlay of over \$5000, and as an exhibition of modish dress the offering is an exceptional treat. Evans and his associates execute the very latest ideas in several styles of tango, dips, glides, hesitations and other steps of light fantastic which society has pronounced as the correct dances of the period.

Another big feature on this program will be Douglas Flint and Co. in a comedy playlet, "The Merchant Prince."

Others will include the king of monologists, Dave Ferguson, in new songs, comedy and parodies; Harry Tyler and Gladys Crolius in "The Dipsyheads"; Bert and Lottie Walton in bits of musical comedy; Gormley and Gaffery, pantomimic acrobats; Bauer and Saunders, offering the latest New York song hits, and others.

BOSTON AND MONTANA BUYERS.

Messrs. Mark Harris & Co., Standard Bank Building, are naturally elated with the big advance in Boston and Montana shares which they started advising clients to buy on Feb. 7 last at 36 cents a share. The firm had made a close study of the Nevada property before inducing purchasers of the stock, and their judgment was amply verified by the stock's action. On Saturday the shares sold up to \$1.25 on the Boston and New York curb, and the firm estimates that their clients have easily made \$300,000 on the deal.

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But until now, thanks to our foresight, you didn't have to—not if you ordered your clothes at the Tip Top Tailors—because as we have been telling you all spring, we bought our supply of materials before present war prices prevailed.

Now, however, a new condition has cropped up, a condition that we did not anticipate, viz., an alarming scarcity of tailors, cutters, etc., necessitating higher wages and consequently greatly increased cost of making. With this condition before us we have no choice but to ask you a slight advance—not much, just a dollar, but an advance that represents to us the difference between profit and loss.

When you consider the present state of affairs—how others have advanced prices months ago, when you consider that the same woollens we offer you at \$15 are selling at \$25 and \$30 elsewhere, we believe you will agree that our modest advance of \$1.00 is extremely reasonable. At the same time we wish to assure you that could we possibly continue business without asking this dollar more, we would do so because our motto has always been: "Many orders at extremely close profits." During this season of abnormal labor conditions and market upheavals, we believe in being frank with our patrons. We believe it will mean something to them to know that all the materials we offer them are of honest, trustworthy quality and that in the making of our clothes the workmanship will be our best and that their wants will be courteously and painstakingly served in every particular. Just now a dollar more in price enables us to maintain our standard of quality, hence we do not hesitate to ask it. The new price \$15.00 instead of \$14.00, goes into effect at all our 12 branches when the stores open on Monday Morning, May 1st.

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