

geldings instead. The exchange was certainly worth hundreds of dollars to Major Fletcher and for which the Government did not get a cent, and so far as known have done nothing to recover the amount lost.

Taking these purchases as a sample of the way the Government were handling the purchase of horses through the Dominion it would appear that the half has not yet been told and that the losses to the country as between the prices paid to the farmer and the prices charged by the Government are enormous.

Oliver Equipment

Every soldier before going into the trenches is supplied with an equipment which can best be described as a sort of harness which is so made as to go over his shoulders and strapped around his body. This equipment contains pockets and pouches, a water bottle, cups etc., a place for his blankets, in fact a soldier's full marching equipment, and is fitted in such a manner as to not interfere with his movements when marching and firing his rifle.

The Canadian soldiers have been supplied with what is known as the Oliver Equipment which is a sort of hybrid equipment parts of which are made of canvas and other parts of leather. The British War Office early in the War selected as their standard equipment what is known as the Webb, and all of the British, Belgian and Russian soldiers are supplied with this Webb equipment.

When war was declared the manufacture of this Webb equipment who resides in Worcester, Mass., met General Sir Sam Hughes and some officials of the Militia Department and pointed out to them that as the British Government had adopted the Webb the Canadian Government should adopt the same equipment. This manufacturing Company from Worcester, Mass., gave full details of what they were prepared to do and went so far as to say that if they were given a substantial order they would come to Canada, establish a plant and manufacture this Webb equipment in Canada. They were informed by General Sir Sam Hughes that the matter would be given consideration.

The manufacturer returned to Worcester, and later received word to proceed to New York to discuss an order for Webb equipment for the Canadian Government. Much to his surprise on reaching New York he found that negotiations were to be carried on by the J. Wesley Allison combination. Being anxious to secure this business the manufacturer consented, and after details had been gone into they were given a small order for this Webb equipment. The price to be paid was \$4.40 per set