

THE DAILY MAIL

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What I said November 9, I repeat now: "We shall never sheathe the sword, which we have not lightly drawn, until Belgium—and I will add Serbia—recover in full measure all and more than they have sacrificed; until France is adequately secured against aggression; until the rights of the small nations of Europe are based upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed."—Premier Asquith.

THE CRISIS AT OTTAWA.

Premier Borden, who announced in Parliament a few days ago that there would be no investigation into the grave charges preferred by Hon. Dr. Pugsley in connection with munitions contracts, has been compelled by some of the more independent of his supporters to recede from his position. Things got so warm for the Premier that he has named a Royal Commission to investigate the charges. The slashing speech delivered in Parliament on Tuesday last by Mr. G. W. Kyte, M. P. for Richmond, was the means of bringing things to a head. Mr. Kyte was told during the course of his speech that he was not making any impression on the Conservative side of the House. All the same he seems to have put fear into their hearts, for on the following day twenty of Premier Borden's followers threatened to revolt if he did not yield to the demand for an enquiry. Finding himself between the devil and the deep sea, the Premier climbed down from his position and has announced that an investigation will be held.

Mr. Kyte, in his great speech, devoted considerable attention to the elusive Col. John Wesley Allison, the bosom friend of Sir Sam Hughes, who, according to Sir Sam, is busily engaged in saving millions for the Imperial and Canadian governments in the United States in the purchase of war munitions. Mr. Kyte was able to show from the records that Col. Allison had perjured himself before the Davidson Commission, and that Sir Sam had made a public statement which was not in accordance with the facts.

Who is this Col. Allison, who is now so much in the public eye in connection with war contracts? He is one of Sir Sam's honorary colonels, who at one time resided at Morrisburg, Ont., but is now a resident of the United States. Hon. Andrew Broder, M. P., says that he warned Sir Sam soon after the war broke out to "look out for him," but the warning was not heeded. The Colonel was the man on the spot for Sir Sam and was commissioned to expend millions of dollars in the United States in the purchase of war munitions. It is charged that mushroom companies in which he had an interest secured contracts for shell fuses amounting to \$22,000,000, and the government advanced them \$3,000,000 shortly after the contract was signed.

Speaking in the House of Commons on January 26th, Sir Sam Hughes gave Col. Allison this certificate of character:

"I secured the services of a lifelong friend of mine, Col. J. W. Allison, a man in whom I HAVE HAD A LIFE LONG CONFIDENCE, A MAN WHO IS THE SOUL OF HONOR AND KINDNESS. Thousands and tens of thousands, yes, millions of dollars' worth of war materials were brought in from the United States to Canada by arrangement with our customs department, and were shipped by way of Canadian routes to the old land."

In another speech, delivered in the House on March 2nd, the Minister of Militia said:

"I had associated for twenty-five or thirty years with Col. J. Wesley Allison in various matters; but in 1909 and 1910 we were concerned more intimately with the St. Lawrence dam question. * * * We visited Washington and Albany on a number of occasions and were successful in preventing the passage of bills for damming the St. Lawrence river. * * * I am not complaining about the custom; I am merely explaining that, as far as Canada was concerned nothing was to be added to the prices, and that at the close of the war we should endeavor to recompense Col. Allison in some way because he has consistently refused to take any commission, although he has had to pay out money in express and freight charges, and I hope he has kept the bills. To Col. Skinner's question Col. Allison without a moment's hesitation said that not one cent whatever would ever be taken out of the pockets of the Canadian people for any transaction in which he was concerned."

A little further on in the same speech Sir Sam said:

"On tri-nitro-toluol, picric acid, copper, brass, zinc, ammunition of various kinds, Col. Allison undoubtedly saved upwards of \$50,000,000 to Great Britain and Canada. Even when the British government wanted a hundred rifles for testing purposes they applied to Col. Allison for them."

Notwithstanding the positive statements of Sir Sam Hughes, there is ample evidence to show that Col. Allison was not actuated altogether by patriotic motives, nor was he working wholly for his health. In January last Sir Sam Hughes appeared before Commissioner Sir Charles Davidson, and made a statement from which the following is an extract:

Q. (by Sir Chas. Davidson)—Do you know if that would apply to revolvers or pistols?

Sir Sam Hughes—We have nothing to do with pistols. The deal was made through American officers, or friends—perhaps I should not use the term "friends"—but at all events he had nothing to do with the pistols in any sense whatever.

The "he" referred to was Col. John Wesley Allison. Thus we have the statement of Sir Sam that Col. Allison had nothing whatever to do with the purchase of pistols.

Now let us see what Col. Allison himself had to say on this subject. It seems he was called as a witness before Commissioner Davidson, and here is an extract from his testimony:

Q.—Did you sell any revolvers to the Canadian government?

A.—No.

Q.—Were you the agent of any person who sold revolvers or pistols to the Canadian government?

A.—No.

Q.—Are you the agent of any company who sold any revolvers or pistols to the Canadian Government?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you profit by way of commission on any revolvers or pistols that were sold to the Canadian Government, or to the Department of Militia and Defence?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Neither directly nor indirectly?

A.—No.

Q.—Not in any way?

A.—No.

From the above it will be seen that Col. Allison in his evidence supported the statement of Sir Sam Hughes that he had nothing to do with the purchase of pistols. Mr. Brown, the director of contracts for the Militia Department, had a different story to tell. Here is an extract from his evidence:

Q.—What orders were given for automatic pistols?

A.—THE FIRST ORDER IS FOR 1,000 AUTOMATIC PISTOLS GIVEN ON THE 5TH SEPTEMBER TO COL. J. W. ALLISON BY AUTHORITY OF AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL OF THAT DATE. I HAVE THE ORDER-IN-COUNCIL BEFORE ME."

From the above extracts it will be seen that although Col. Allison stated under oath that he had nothing to do with pistols, we find that he was authorized to purchase one thousand of them by an order-in-council. The suggestion of Mr. Kyte, M. P., to the Solicitor General that he should consult the criminal code in regard to perjury and get after Col. Allison was therefore a very timely one.

Col. Allison's statement that he got no commission either directly or indirectly does not jibe with the testimony of Mr. Stone, of the Colts Repeating Arms Co., who testified before Commissioner Davidson. He said in part:

"We have one man who has done a great deal of business for us in continental Europe during the last two years, looking to the securing of contracts from three or four governments here. THAT MAN WAS VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN ASSISTING THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE SECURING OF THESE ARMS, AND TO HIM WE HAVE GIVEN WHAT I MAY CALL A PRESENT, OR PAID HIM AN AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH IS IN RETURN FOR GENERAL SERVICES RENDERED IN NEGOTIATING OR SECURING BUSINESS AT LARGE. * * * Whatever we consider a man of that kind to have been worth to us we give him a payment for it."

Sir Charles Davidson—I want to put the question blunter, in view of statements that have been made. Has Col. Allison derived any benefit from these purchases, or will he?

Mr. Stone—COL. ALLISON IT IS TO WHOM I HAVE REFERRED THAT THE COMPANY HAS PRESENTED MONEY TO FOR HIS GENERAL SERVICES TO US.

This is the same Col. Allison who, according to Sir Sam Hughes, refused to accept commissions for his services. Yet he was paid by the Colt Company for his services, and it is alleged that he received a rake-off from the Canadian Government of \$4 on each pistol purchased. It is not much wonder that Premier Borden has been obliged to send a cable to Sir Sam Hughes, who is now in England, ordering him to return home at once. Sir Sam was to have been tendered a complimentary dinner in London on April 10th, at which Sir Edward Carson, Lord Beresford and other notables were to have spoken, but he has got to pitch it all and come back. There

SUMMARY OF LAST NIGHT'S NEWS FROM THE WAR ZONE

The Germans are still carrying on strong offensive operations northeast and northwest of Verdun. About four and one-half miles northeast of the fortress they penetrated the Caillette wood, just outside Fort Douaumont, after a violent bombardment. From parts of this wood the French, in an immediate counter-attack, drove back the invaders.

Another powerful attack was delivered against that portion of the Avocourt wood held by the French, but here the French barrier fire and machine guns held the Germans without gain.

The French have now entirely evacuated the village of Vaux, and have drawn their lines south of the town, but in its immediate outskirts. Berlin says that northeast of Harcourt, between Malancourt and Le Mort Homme, the Germans have entirely cleared the French from about one thousand yards of trenches, where they have remained since March 30.

On the other sectors about Verdun there have been only intermittent bombardments; artillery duels have characterized the fighting along the remainder of the front.

Aircraft have been active around Verdun. The French brought down three German machines, but Berlin asserts that the aerial combats have resulted in their favor.

Both sides have been busily engaged in dropping bombs on military establishments at various points.

Greater activity than usual has been displayed in the fighting between the Germans and Russians in the region of Baranovichi, southwest of Minsk. Elsewhere on the Russian front the situation is unchanged.

Fort St. George and Sanjak, as well as the other coastal defenses of Smyrna, were destroyed Friday in a three hours' bombardment by a British warship, says a despatch to The London Times from Saloniki. The Turks did not reply to the fire of the warship.

Sanjak is the chief work commanding the entrance to Smyrna harbor. St. George is about three miles to the southeast.

should be lively times at Ottawa during the next few weeks.

THE LATE DONALD FRASER.

In the death of Mr. Donald Fraser, Fredericton loses a most worthy citizen and New Brunswick its ablest industrial captain. Scotland was his birthplace, but he adopted New Brunswick as his home forty-three years ago. Four years after his arrival in this province he became the owner of a small saw mill at River du Chute, Victoria county. His pecuniary capital was small, but he had plenty of pluck and determination and an unlimited capacity for hard work. He was singularly successful, and the lumbering concern of which he was the head at the time of his death is easily the largest and most prosperous in the Maritime Provinces. Donald Fraser was Scotland's best gift to New Brunswick. He was a big-hearted man of the people who treated his employees generously and gave liberally of his means for the promotion of religious and philanthropic work. He loved the land of his birth; he also loved New Brunswick and was ever true to his best interests. He has gone the way of all the world, but his work lives and future generations will honor his memory. To the members of the bereaved family the Mail tenders its sincere sympathy.

The Italian piccolo player who got in with Col. John Wesley Allison on a shell contract and picked up \$50,000 of easy money, must have been a black-hander.

THE ST. JOHN GLOBE THOROUGHLY DISGUSTED.

(St. John Globe, Govt.) The Government, and nobody else is responsible for the fact that the Chandler report is not before the Provincial Legislature. It should have been presented on the opening day of House, and on its conclusions there should have been founded a Government resolution vacating the seat of Mr. A. J. H. Stewart. Instead of that there has been procrastinating, culminating on Friday in a pettifogging refusal to permit a discussion of Mr. Stewart's status because the report has not been formally presented to the Legislature. No event in the parliamentary history of New Brunswick has a more sinister appearance. A week ago the Premier appeared in the Legislature and craved the indulgence of the House because of his illness. Friday he made his second appearance of the session and justified refusal of discussion of the Stewart case. What a pity his first was not his last speech of the session.

Our Annual Curtain Sale Tuesday and Wednesday, April 4th and 5th. SHOULD INTEREST EVERY CELESTIAL HOUSEKEEPER

We can only give details of a few items placed on sale during these two sale days, and many Bargains will be found which space will not permit us to mention. Carefully note these items

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|---|--|
| 1 Only, WHITE NET CURTAIN for Large Window, 4 ft. 6 in. wide, reg. \$4.00 for \$2.25. | 1 Pair Only, WHITE IRISH POINT CURTAINS, regular price \$5.50, for \$3.75. |
| 1 Pair Only, ARAB IRISH POINT CURTAINS, regular price \$5.50, for \$3.50. | 3 Pairs Only ARAB NET CURTAINS, regular \$3.50, for \$2.25 a pair. |
| 3 Pairs WHITE NOVELTY NET CURTAINS, regular \$4.50, for \$2.98 pair. | 2 Pairs WHITE NOVELTY NET CURTAINS, regular \$5.95 pair, for \$3.75. |
| 2 Pairs CREAM SWISS CURTAINS, regular \$6.85 pair, for \$4.65. | 2 Pairs CREAM SWISS CURTAINS, regular \$7.50, for \$4.95 pair. |

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|---|-------------|
| 4 Pairs ARABIAN SWISS CURTAINS, regular \$5.50, on sale | \$3.25 pair |
| 3 Pairs ARABIAN SWISS CURTAINS, regular \$6.50, on sale | \$3.85 pair |
| 2 Pairs ARABIAN SWISS CURTAINS, regular \$6.85, on sale | \$4.25 pair |

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TWO MEMBERS

(Continued from page eight.)
er of The Mail this morning whether counter charges were to be made against other members of the police force, Sergt. Duncan stated that no steps had been taken yet but probably would be. He said also that the charges would be supported by affidavits which already had been prepared. There have been many rumors concerning such affidavits. It is said that Chief of Police McCollom and Policeman Chas. H. Marshall will be the members of the force concerned. It also is said that some of the affidavits have been made by women.

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