

# Interesting Pen Picture of Col. John Wesley Allison

**Sir Sam Hughes' Guide, Philosopher and Friend Described as a Miracle Maker—A Man of Special Gifts Whom Yoakum and Other Patriots Deemed it Advisable to Get Next to—Has Had a Wonderful and Meteoric Career Since the War Broke Out.**

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, June 10.—There is little reason to doubt that Col. John Wesley Allison, with slight but convenient intermissions of memory and lapses of health when the questions got too searching and the answers needed editing, was prepared to tell the Duff-Meredith Commission all the truth he thought was good for it.

Colonel Allison is a short, sallow man with long, plaintive eyelashes, a regular Cobalt lay-out of silver hair which he parts in the middle to preserve his balance, and a moustache which droops from the weight of evidence it shelters. The Colonel talks in a tired voice and is somewhat careless of the King's English. Unlike Colonel David Carnegie, he is no hide-bound grammarian. His singular subjects and plural verbs show an amount of disloyalty to each other which is fairly astonishing in the patriot Sir Sam painted him to be.

## A Magic Touch.

Whatever the Colonel may look in uniform, he appears ordinary enough in his neat sack suit of bartender's blue. And yet he is a highly important person—a person surrounded by auriferous influences, a Midas whose touch turns everything to gold, said touch being always and everywhere at work from 10 per cent. up.

In fact, he is so important a person that Benjamin Franklin Yoakum, that genial Wall Street buccaneer, who can smell money miles off, paid \$25,000 just to sit near him. An impression had got abroad somehow that Allison was a miracle worker, that he had found the gold at the rainbow's end, that his divining rod invariably located hidden treasure, in short that he had tremendous pull somewhere with somebody, and that he was a good man to get next to.

Col. Allison seems to have realized his special gifts himself. At all events he cashed in on them to the extent of sharing commissions with many groups and combinations, said groups and combinations doing all the work of landing or filing contracts while the Colonel provided the influence.

## Allison's Wonderful Influence.

Let nobody underrate this influence of the Colonel's. Without it no contracts detached themselves from the parent stem. With it, contracts fell into one's lap like overripe cherries.

It was the Colonel's job to shake the tree, and shake it he did, well and often.

Whence did this wonderful influence of the Colonel's come? Was it born with him or did he have it thrust upon him? Was he such an outstanding figure that the British, Russian, French and Canadian governments simply made a grab for him, or did his name have to be mentioned to them?

Why this sudden confidence on the part of the great powers in a tin colonel unknown to fame save as Sir Sam's friend? The evidence before the Duff-Meredith commission does not go into these matters. But it is an interesting subject just the same.

Suffice it to say that Col. John Wesley has had a wonderful and meteoric career since he first blazed on war's horizon two years ago. Like Minerva from Jupiter's brain, he seems to have stepped forth full-armed and been a business success from the start.

## Customs Barriers Fade.

Nothing occurred at any stage of the game to contradict Col. Allison's statements that he could deliver the goods. Shortly after the war started there was that little affair of the Colt's revolvers—a little affair with the Canadian government in which Col. Allison was all to the mustard. Not only did he succeed in selling the Militia Department of Canada Colts revolvers in wholesale lots at \$4.50 each more than retailers could get them for in lots of two, but the customs bars at Morrisburg were removed so as to let them and certain other bargains of a similar character in free.

Thus Col. Allison with his own hands—single and unaided—did all that the reciprocity movement failed to do in 1911—lowered the tariff barriers, lowered them moreover, in the face of a Government that had said "Never, no never will we do such a thing." Is it any wonder that the Tobacco crowd

and the Wall street crowd over there in New York looked on and said "Allison's the man for our money?"

## Those "Defective" Cartridges.

Then there was that little affair of the defective cartridges—three million rounds of 'em, bought by Allison for \$20 a thousand and sold for \$25 a thousand to the British Admiralty. Even the great Vickers company was brushed aside when Allison was negotiating that little deal. This seems to have been one case when Allison took in no middlemen. Two things stand out in this transaction—the British Admiralty's confidence in the "defective" cartridges, and the British Admiralty's confidence in Colonel John Wesley Allison, who was selling them. It only goes to show what a charm the Colonel exercised.

It is not necessary to go behind the Colonel's evidence before the Duff-Meredith Commission to show that Col. John Wesley Allison was just as strong with the Russian and French Governments as he was with the British and Canadian. If his own words are not to be misconstrued he had considerable to do with the Russian order for eighty million dollars' worth of shells which is now being filled in Canada.

The Colonel's say so would appear to be as effective in Petrograd as it was at the Horse Guards in Whitehall. That a man of Col. John Wesley Allison's modest size should be so distinctly seen by war bureaucrats the world over is nothing short of marvellous. "The mind's the measure of the man," 'tis said—and what a mind Colonel Allison must have to be visible at these long distances!

## Sir Sam's Innocence.

It seems a pity that after all these wonderful performances with foreign governments the Colonel should write himself down as less than the super-patriot Sir Sam described him to be. According to Sir Sam the Colonel was exercising his wonderful spell on foreign War Offices for nothing less than his expense bills, but according to the Colonel his spell cost anything from 10 per cent. up. But—mark that but—Sir Sam doesn't know anything about it. The Colonel was taking commissions going and coming, he was hand in glove with rollicking bands of war profiteers in at least five countries, and Sir Sam didn't know anything about it. Can you beat innocence like that? Una and the Lion have nothing on Sir Sam and his John Wesley Allison.

## Gentleman's Agreements.

According to Colonel Allison's evidence, he was partner in a number of "gentlemen's agreements" to take all that was coming to them, including

# ALLISON'S RAKE OFF CONDEMNED

Ottawa, June 10.—"The whole thing is that Colonel Allison, as the confidential agent of the Minister of Militia and Defence, dips his hands into the till to the tune of \$220,000 in connection with these contracts."—The Hon. Justice Duff.

With this significant and unequivocal comment, Commissioner Duff summed up the main moral and conclusion of the whole fuse contract inquiry in the last day of the Meredith-Duff commission. Sir William Meredith emphasized the moral by intimating that Allison's moral courage did not enable him to resist temptation, but perhaps now the money might be paid back.

The comments came at the morning session, when G. F. Henderson, K. C., was attempting to justify his client, Colonel Allison, for taking the commission, and to defend the whole agreement with Yoakum as to the division of the million dollar rake-off on the American Ammunition company contract.

Counsel for the defence have rested their case in summing up principally on the fact that nothing has been proven reflecting on the personal honesty of the Minister of Militia or the members of the Shell Committee. In this view they have argued that the gravamen of the Kite charges has not been substantiated and the finding of the commissioners must therefore be a verdict for complete acquittal.

Whether or not the contracts themselves were provident and justifiable under all the circumstances is still an open question. The arguments of counsel on this aspect of the investigation have been directly opposing, and the comments of the commissioners indicate that their verdict on this phase is still a matter of conjecture.

## Issue Clear Cut.

On the question of the personal honesty of the Minister of Militia and the members of the Shell Committee the Commissioners have already practically returned a verdict of acquittal and Liberal counsel have repeatedly asserted that no such charges were ever made by Mr. Kite. But the proven charge that Allison, as the close friend and confidential agent of Sir Sam Hughes, was allowed while acting practically in trust capacity, to collect a rake-off, again emerged clear cut today. The Minister of Militia, in giving evidence last week, gave his approval of everything Allison had done, including the taking of the commission, and emphatically declared he would trust him again.

## In Other Lands.

Justice Duff referred to war profiteers who had been shot before this and to the "chain of profiteers" in the "carefully concluded" agreement of Allison, Yoakum and their associates.

The last word was said at 7 o'clock tonight. Counsel complimented the commissioners on the fair and just conduct of the investigation, and the commissioners complimented the counsel on the restraint of partisan expression and the dignified and thorough character of the examination of witnesses.

the gentleman's agreement between himself, Yoakum and Lignanti, which was not signed, but which was nevertheless carried out.

Our experience of a "gentleman's agreement" is that it is generally an agreement to skin a louse for its hide and tallow and that gentlemen act advisedly when they carry out the agreement but refuse to sign their names to it. It looks better that way.

Col. Allison has also explained that the commission of \$200,000 set aside for him when Yoakum, Caldwell and Bassick split a million dollars between them as a genuine surprise. We have noticed the same thing on a farm. The hen always voices surprise when she lays an egg.

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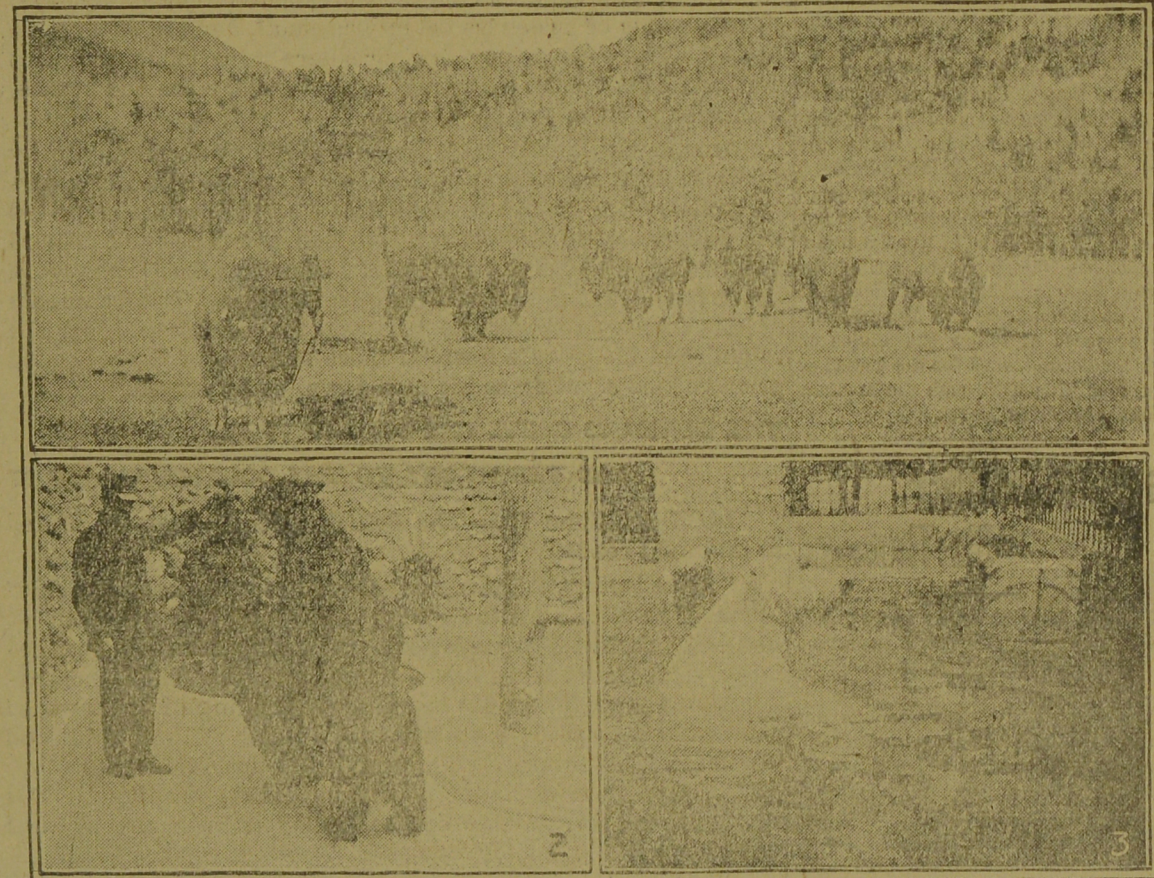
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# CANADIAN ZOO



(1) Specimens of Banff Buffalo. (2) Three Good Fellows. (3) A Banff Polar Bear.

IN the Canadian Zoo at Banff, Alberta, within the Rocky Mountains Park and along the C.P.R., both at the zoo adjoining the museum and out at the animal paddock about two miles east of the town, there are fine specimens of buffalo, moose, elk, deer, Persian sheep, Angora goats, bear, wolves, coyotes, lynx, badgers, martens, and a number of the smaller animals.

Six yak, originally presented to the Dominion Government by the Duke of Bedford, were tendered by the former to the Rocky Mountains Park. They

were brought to Banff from the experimental farm at Brandon, and are now in a healthy and flourishing condition. Their quaint appearance, causing them to be objects of much interest. The park commissioner suggests that it would be an interesting experiment to attempt to cross one of the buffalo bulls with one of the yak cows.

In the Zoo, adjacent to the museum, may be seen the following animals of the Rocky Mountains:

Black bears, Cinnamon bears, grizzly bears, red foxes, kit foxes, timber wolves, coyotes, lynx, American

panther (or mountain lion), badgers, pine martens, porcupines, mountain gopher, albino gophers, marmots, fox squirrels, black squirrels, Canada geese, hawks, golden eagles, black-headed eagles, owls, pelican.

The following animals, from distant parts of the world, may be seen in the Zoo:

Ringtail monkey, rhesus monkeys, polar bear, raccoons, orange squirrel, silver pheasants, golden pheasants, Amherst pheasants, reeves pheasants, common pheasants, pea fowls.