

# Millions of Dollars Paid to Mushroom Firms for Shells

## Some Interesting Extracts From Mr. F. B. Carvell's Great Speech---The Dunbar Company of Woodstock Lacked the Necessary Pull and Could Not Get a Contract---Partizanship of Shell Committee Exposed.

Following are some interesting extracts from the speech of Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P., in the House of Commons a few days ago, in which he exposed the methods employed in hand-shell contracts.

Mr. Carvell—Have we not a right to call the Government to strictest account, not only for every dollar they are handling as trustees for the British people, but also for every dollar they are handling as administrators for the Canadian people?

Speaking more particularly of the work of the Shell Committee, Mr. Carvell stated:

Mr. Cudlip, of the York and Cornwall Cotton Company, of St. John, got a contract for 25,000 shrapnel shells, and immediately went to James Fleming & Son, the Phoenix Foundry Co., an old established firm. The Fleming people had to pay a commission of 10 per cent.

It (the Shell Committee) is a Canadian committee, created by the Canadian Government, and under the control of the Canadian Government for all practical purposes. I go further, and say that it is a political committee of the Conservative party of Canada, created in order to work out what they think best for the interests of the Conservative party of this country.

That there never was a time when the fate of this Empire trembled in the balance as it did during these three months, April, May and June of 1915.

That during this time there were dozens and dozens of big manufacturing establishments who wanted to do work for the Empire who went to the Shell Committee and demonstrated that they were in a position to do the work more expeditiously than anybody else, and who, because they did not have political influence, were unable to get an order, while millions of dollars' worth of work was given out to little mushroom companies organized and controlled by Conservative politicians and Conservative voters all over Canada.

### Nothing for Woodstock.

There is a firm of foundrymen and machinists in my town (Woodstock, N. B.) called the Dunbar Engine and Foundry Company, men who can build and who in the last twenty years have built anything at all; men who have built logging engines which are nearly as large and more intricate than an ordinary railway locomotive.

They wrote to the Shell Committee and asked for a contract and received a reply from General Bertram, dated February 27th, stating:

"We have already allotted to the various companies in Canada all the shells which we have contracts for from the British War Office, and regret to advise that we will not be letting further orders for at least three months."

Another company in Ontario about the same time wrote General Bertram and received the following reply:

"Would state that for the present there is no further order to allot, and we have sufficient factories now equipped to carry on the orders we have in hand."

On July 8th, General Bertram wrote Messrs. Dunbar Engine and Foundry Company of Woodstock, N. B., a letter which stated:

"Regret to advise that the situation at present is that we have a much larger machining capacity than our contracts call for and cannot offer any encouragement whatever."

### Practiced Deceit.

Mr. Carvell, proceeding, said: I would not mind them (the Shell Committee) deceiving—I cannot use a milder term than that—if it were necessary, and if they would admit that they were placing orders with big manufacturers; but when they deliberately play the game of politics, when their friends all over Canada were organizing mushroom companies by the score, without plant, without location, without material, and many of them without money, and were receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of orders; surely when I have proved that I have gone a long way towards proving my assertion that this was a political game.

Mr. Carvell, proceeding, gave some evidence on this point and quoted a number of mushroom companies organized and receiving orders at the very same time the replies above referred to were being sent out by General Bertram.

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The first—the Metal Drawing Company, Ltd., of St. Catharines, Ont., a mushroom company incorporated under the Ontario laws, March 5, 1915, with an authorized capital of \$50,000. They took over the plant of the Reo Motor Car Company. The president of this mushroom company is Mr. J. D. Chaplin, who received, I am informed, contracts amounting to four million dollars.

The Kerr & Goodwin Machine Co., Limited, another mushroom company incorporated under Dominion charter, April 28, 1915, with a capital stock of \$30,000. All Conservatives except one and they were able to secure an order for at least \$150,000.

The G. W. McFarlane Co., Limited, of Paris, Ont. Owing to political influence, Mr. McFarlane was able to secure an order of over \$75,000 for shells, and he immediately proceeded to Paris, Ontario, and made arrangements to install a plant in an old town hall.

### A Mushroomer.

The Cobourg Steel Co., Limited, with head office at Toronto, and works at Cobourg, a mushroom company, incorporated under Ontario laws, May 10, 1915, authorized capital \$40,000. This concern secured an order for something approximating \$150,000.

The St. Lawrence Machinery Company, Montreal, Clarence F. Smith, president, a mushroom company, incorporated under the Dominion law, with a capital stock of \$15,000, of which \$5,000 is paid up. They were able to secure an order for shells to the amount of \$125,000.

The Spartan Machine Co., Montreal, incorporated May 21, 1915, authorized capital \$50,000 with \$27,000 paid up.

The next is one that will surely interest my hon. friends opposite—Hepburn Brothers, of Picton, Ontario, of which the hon. member for Prince Edward (Mr. Hepburn) is a member. This gentleman has a planing mill. He received an order for 200,000 forgings, 45 shells at \$2; the machining of 50,000 4.5 shells at \$6, or a total of \$700,000. This was given to him on May 29th last. Is there a man in this House who believes that the hon. member for Prince Edward and his company are able to manufacture 4.5 forgings? Why, there were only three or four companies in Canada that could do it when the War broke out.

### More Big Orders.

The F. W. Wilfred & Company, Ltd., Lindsay, organized May 31, 1915, and given an order for 50,000 shells at \$4, a total of \$200,000.

The Alton Foundry Company, incorporated under Ontario laws June 22, 1915, capital \$50,000. This concern has a contract for \$75,000.

The St. Thomas Construction Company, of St. Thomas, Ont. We are getting pretty close to another member of the government. This is another mushroom company, incorporated in June, 1915. It was able to secure a contract for shells to the amount of at least \$100,000.

This brings me beyond the date of the letters to which I referred, and I cite these cases only to show that even after the time covered by this correspondence the same condition existed as before.

The Eastern Machine Company, a mushroom company organized October 26, 1915. The authorized capital of this concern is \$45,000, and it got a contract for \$50,000.

The Holden-Morgan Co., of Toronto organized Nov. 8, 1914; capital \$40,000. This concern got a contract for at least \$325,000.

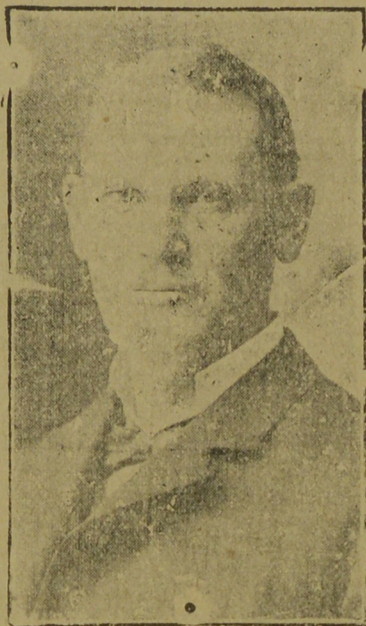
Besides these I have the names of dozens of these mushroom companies. The London Manufacturing and Machinery Co., to which a contract amounting to \$200,000 was awarded.

The Ingersoll Machine Co., \$175,000; the Invincible Machine Co., of Walkerville, Ont., \$160,000; the Zenith Machine Co., Montreal, \$150,000.

This is a matter which brings right to the door of the government the question as to whether they want shells, or whether they want political support.

### Not a Fixed Price.

Mr. Carvell next dealt with the statement of the Solicitor General. The Hon. Mr. Meighen had stated "that when the Shell Committee first started to give out orders they had to give them at a high price, namely, \$5.70 for a high explosive shell, for the reason that in order to secure contractors to do the work there had to be included in the contract price an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the installation of the necessary machinery. Therefore the price was fixed at \$5.70 per shell for machining and assembling." This is what Mr. Meighen stated in the House.



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Mr. Carvell then proceeded to show that the first order given to all companies was not given at \$5.70 and consequently the Solicitor General's statement was in error and proceeded to give the following information in regard to this point to prove that all manufacturers for their first order did not receive \$5.70 for machining and assembling 18-pound high explosive shells and that some firms who did receive \$5.70 only got an order for 5,000, while other firms could get an order for 200,000 shells.

The following were the names of the firms which Mr. Carvell quoted:

M. Beatty & Sons, Welland, Ont., who got a 10,000 order at \$5.70.

The Chapman Engine Works got an order for 100,000 at \$5.70.

The Massey-Harris Co., Toronto, got an order for 100,000 shells at \$5.70.

The Mechanical Engine Co., of Montreal, got along with an order for 5,000 at \$5.70.

The Manufacturing and Contracting Company, of Toronto, got an order for 125,000 at \$5.70.

The Metal Drawing Co., of St. Catharines, Ont., owned by a Conservative candidate, got an order for 100,000 at \$5.70.

The Universal Tool and Steel Company got an order for 100,000 shells at \$5.70.

Then Mr. Carvell proceeded to show that other companies got a much lower price for their first order.

### No Truck or Trade.

I am prepared to state more than that: In the month of May, 1915, a contract was given to a Montreal middleman for a very large quantity of shells, which he sublet to an American, and, mark you, within eight days thereafter this Shell Committee gave an order to one of their own members at 75 cents a shell more than the middleman took it at, and the middleman took it for the purpose of handing it over to Americans to manufacture for him.

The Alton Foundry Company were perfectly satisfied to take 75,000 at \$3.25.

The Canadian-Ingersoll Rand Company of Sherbrooke were satisfied to take 10,000 at \$3.25.

Darling Bros., Montreal, were willing to take 25,000 at \$4.

The Peterborough Machine and Lubricator Company of Peterborough, Ontario, were satisfied with a little order of 25,000 at \$3.25 per shell.

The National Manufacturing Company of Brockville took an order for 20,000 at \$3.25.

### Had Two Prices.

Even at a late date everything was not right in the Shell Committee, and to prove this Mr. Carvell proceeded to show that within the last two months there seemed to be two prices for machining and assembling 18-lb. high explosive shells. He quoted:

Darling Bros., of Montreal, who took an order for 10,000 at \$1.75.

The Universal Tool and Steel Co., of Toronto, 30,000 at \$1.75.

The Northern Electric Co., of Montreal got a contract for 16,000 shells at \$1.75.

For exactly the same work the following companies got 25 cents more:

The Manitoba Shell Co., of St. Boniface, were given a 10,000 order at \$2.00.

The Saskatchewan Bridge and Iron

Works of Moose Jaw were given a 20,000 order at \$2.00.

### Three Prices for 60-lb. Shells.

For machining and assembling 60-pound high explosive shells, in the month of December the E. Long Manufacturing Company of Orillia, Ont., got an order of 20,000 at \$4.50.

The Canada Malleable Iron Company of Owen Sound, Ont., got an order for 70,000, but the price had climbed to the extent of a quarter of a dollar; they got \$4.75.

E. A. D. Morgan & Sons, Montreal, Mr. Morgan being a former Conservative candidate in Richelieu and the future Conservative candidate in that constituency got an order for 25,000 at \$5.00.

Speaking of fuses, Mr. Carvell stated:

That the Shell Committee had given an order to the American Ammunition Company of New York as follows: \$33,333 at \$4.50 each, and 1,666,666 at \$4.00 each, or an average of \$4.16 per fuse.

To the International Arms and Fuse Company for \$33,333 at \$4.50 each, and 1,666,666 at \$4.50 each, or an average price of \$4.50 per fuse.

The Russell Motor Car Co., of Toronto, 2,500,000 at \$4.00 each and 2,500,000 at \$3.00 each, or an average of \$3.50 per fuse.

Why all this difference?

### Shell Boxes.

Mr. Carvell then proceeded to show that in the making of shell boxes the same condition of affairs existed, and gave the following facts to substantiate his statement:

The Sussex Manufacturing Co., of Sussex, N. B., got a contract for 20,000 boxes, with a time limit of 4 months, but finished it in less than one month, and asked the Shell Committee for a repeat order of 100,000 boxes, which was refused them.

Notwithstanding this, Mr. W. H. Farnham, of St. Stephen, got an order for 25,000 shell boxes. This gentleman hawked that contract about New Brunswick for at least a month. He went to different institutions in St. Stephen and St. John and could not get a company to manufacture the boxes, or even to buy the screws to hold them together. I have not followed this matter up—I have been very busy of late—but I believe that Mr. Farnham managed to get a combination of politicians together; but whether they are manufacturing or not I do not know.

Mr. Carvell then read from the Canadian Lumberman:

Mr. C. W. Burgoyne, of Fenelon Falls, secured an order for 3,000 shell boxes at \$2.50 each, and sublet it to a person by the name of Mr. W. Tires at a profit of 50 cents a box. Mr. Burgoyne has subsequently received several other orders. This, it will be noted, is in the Minister of Militia's own constituency, and it is safe to say that the Minister, Sir Sam Hughes, knew all about the original order which was given to Mr. Burgoyne.

In concluding his remarks in regard to shells and shell boxes, Mr. Carvell said:

"I hope the words I speak may not merely be heard in this chamber, but that they may be read by every farmer in the province of New Brunswick, especially by every farmer in my own constituency. Yes, and I hope they may be read by the Imperial authorities themselves. And if they want evidence that this Government is playing the game of politics—not honorable politics, but contemptible politics—I think I can furnish that evidence."

## Greatest Results

often come from simplest means.

For instance—one's daily food plays a big part in deciding for success or failure.

To bring out the best mental and physical forces, sound nourishment is imperative.

## Grape-Nuts

—A FOOD

made of whole wheat and malted barley, supplies in splendid proportion all the rich nourishment of the grains, including the valuable mineral elements, lacking in many foods, but most necessary for vigor and activity of brain and body.

## "There's a Reason" for Grape-Nuts

Made in Canada.

Sold by Grocers.

Canadian Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Windsor, Ont.

## CLEVELAND CHEF ON TRIAL FOR MURDER

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Louis Bianchetti, 25 years old, former chef at the Cleveland Athletic Club, went on trial here today, on a charge of first degree murder in connection with the strangling to death of Dolores Evans, aged 19, an actress, in a room in a downtown hotel the night of January 12th.

The girl's body was found the following afternoon. Bianchetti was arrested by detectives in New York several days later, and brought back here.

New York officers will be witnesses at the trial and will present an alleged confession made to them by Bianchetti after his arrest, in which he said he choked the girl when she tried to rob him of \$250, and that he left the hotel without knowing she was dead.

The crime was one of the most brutal in the history of this city, and resulted in closing the hotel where it occurred, a crusade against vice by city officials, a shake-up in the detective force, the organization of a new police vice squad and a general reorganization of the police department.

## THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN

### "Fruit-a-tives" is the Standby in This Ontario Home

SCOTLAND, Ont., Aug. 25th, 1913.

"My wife was a martyr to Constipation. We tried everything on the calendar without satisfaction, and spent large sums of money, until we happened on 'Fruit-a-tives'. We have used it in the family for about two years, and we would not use anything else as long as we can get 'Fruit-a-tives'."

J. W. HAMMOND.

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" is made from fruit juices and tonics—is mild in action—and pleasant in taste.

50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

## PERSONAL.

Mr. Fergus Armstrong of Hamilton Ont., is at the Barker House. Dr. O. E. Morehouse, M.P.P., is a guest at the Barker House.

## Opposition Platform

The following platform was adopted at the Opposition Convention held in St. John recently: In the event of the Opposition being returned to power, we pledge ourselves:—

### NO PARTIZAN CONTROL OF CROWN LANDS.

1. We pledge ourselves to completely reorganize the Crown-Lands Department, so that its administration shall be entirely severed from politics and administered on sound business principles under systematic plans by a non-partizan commission specially appointed for that purpose, responsible to the Legislature and working in co-operation with the Dominion Commission of Conservation.

### TAKE THE HIGHWAYS OUT OF POLITICS.

2. We pledge ourselves to take the highways out of politics, giving the expenditure of the money collected from the people and the control of the labor, together with the Government appropriations, into the hands of supervisors, chosen by the people of each parish, to whom a detailed and audited account must be rendered every year at the annual meeting, and a duplicate thereof forwarded to the Department of Public Works, the work of the supervisors to be under the inspection of a competent provincial engineer.

We also pledge ourselves to set aside the money collected from the licenses upon automobiles and other motor vehicles, together with an equal appropriation from the revenues of the Province each year, to pay the interest upon the bonds to provide for permanent roads, which shall be constructed as rapidly as possible.

### PROHIBITION PROVINCE WIDE.

3. We pledge ourselves at the first session of the Legislature to pass a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the Province to the fullest extent allowed by the Constitution, and within three months after the passage of said Act to submit the same by referendum to the electors of the Province, and should the majority of votes cast be in favor of the said law, then to bring the same into force by proclamation within one year thereafter.

### ELECTION LAW.

4. (a) To amend the electoral law so as to make it impossible for members of the Legislature to traffic with the Government and still retain their seats.

(b) To make it possible for young men, when they reach the age of 21 years, to register their names and be placed forthwith upon the voters' lists, instead of waiting for the tedious machinery of revision as it now exists.

(c) To divide the counties into electoral districts which shall each be represented by one member.

(d) We will also consider amendments to the election law to make bribery in municipal as well as provincial elections impossible.

### PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

5. To obtain at once a correct statement of the financial condition of the Province in order that the people may have definite knowledge of the vastly increased public debt and the enormous obligations of guaranteed bonds they will be called upon to pay; and to so reduce the cost of the administration of affairs and the number of useless officials as to avoid the necessity for direct taxation now confronting us.

### AGRICULTURE.

6. To give the farmers all the practical assistance that the resources of the Province will permit, to improve agricultural methods and the quality and quantity of the stock upon the farm; to reduce the enormous salary list in the department, and to spend the educational grant received from the Federal Government without regard for political patronage.

### VALLEY RAILWAY.

7. To complete the Valley Railway from a point on the Transcontinental Railway at or near Grand Falls, to St. John, and insist upon the Dominion Government carrying out the terms of the original legislation and allow the Province forty per cent. of the gross earnings thereof.

### EDUCATION.

8. To always maintain and improve the educational service of the Province and to co-operate with the Federal Government in carrying out the recommendations of the commission upon technical education.

### IMMIGRATION.

9. The inauguration of a vigorous immigration policy to properly place before intending immigrants, whose number will be large after termination of the war, the advantages of the agricultural possibilities of New Brunswick.