

HF. Gadsby Discusses the Duff-Meredith Report

Thinks it Has Put a Crimp in Two of Sir Sam's Honorary Colonels --Col. J. Wesley Allison an Adept at Scratching Gravel--He Furnished the Influence While B. F. Yoakum Did the Rest--Had Carte Blanche From Sir Sam.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, Aug. 8.—The whole world seems to be making a dead set against Sam's honorary colonels. According to the London newspapers, there are too many of them on Piccadilly and the Strand, giving fine old tawny generals, who have risked their lives in India and other parts of the British Empire the armache answering their salutes. There is a widespread opinion in London that these tin colonels of Sam's ought to justify their fine feathers by doing a little work at the front.

On top of these criticisms comes the Duff-Meredith report, which puts a crimp in two honorary colonels of Sam's making—naming their names and pointing out their faults in downright fashion. Honorary Col. John Wesley Allison is charged with bad faith toward his friend and sponsor, Major General Sir Sam Hughes, and Honorary Col. David Carnegie is charged with bad judgment in recommending a contract for graze fuses to the American Ammunition Co. when graze fuses could have been made for a dollar less each in Canada. This lapse of judgment on Colonel Carnegie's part resulted in \$1,666,000 of the people's money being thrown as it were to the birds. The Commission let Colonel

Carnegie down rather easy. They point out that he was overburdened with work and imply that he was possibly suffering from brain fog when he did it.

No Excuses for Allison.

As for Sir Sam's friend and super-patriot, Col. John Wesley Allison, the Commission offers no excuses. They are of the opinion that his left hand knew all along what his right hand was taking, although he didn't tell the Minister of Militia anything about it. Perhaps Colonel Allison didn't think it necessary to tell Sir Sam because he had already received general instructions to "scratch gravel" and if Sir Sam didn't know what scratching gravel meant, he ought to.

Incidentally, there was nothing in the evidence to show that Sir Sam was pained or surprised when he learned that his friend was in cahoots with Benjamin Franklin Yoakum to pull down a commission of one million dollars on the American Ammunition Co. contract. That indeed was where their "bit" came in.

Col. Allison furnished the influence, Yoakum produced the manufacturer, and that finished their work. As they had to let somebody else make the profit on the fuses, they naturally cash-

ed in at the start.

Would Scratch Gravel.

Very little time seems to have elapsed between Sir Sam's "scratch gravel" order and Col. Allison's activity in that direction. The Colonel had already had some practice scratching gravel where Canadian war contracts were concerned, when he sold Colts revolvers wholesale to the Militia Department for four dollars each more than they could be purchased for in small lots by retail dealers. From the Colts company Col. Allison got a friendly present for his general work on their behalf, but his general work was explained as not including anything he had unloaded on Canada.

The distinction was, as you will see, between tweedledee and tweedledum. He did not receive a commission from the Colts people on Canadian business, but he accepted a present for his general work on their behalf. He soon proved that as a gravel scratcher he had everybody else between the two oceans backed into a corner and yelling for help.

Had Carte Blanche.

When Sir Sam gave Colonel John Wesley Allison carte blanche to be as greedy as he liked, it wasn't as if he

was coaching somebody who had all to learn about gravel scratching. Col. Allison had already scratched gravel in connection with British, French and Russian war contracts, and knew how to go about it.

No sooner did Major General Sam give him the run of Canadian war business than the American Ammunition Co. was formed, which netted him \$250,000, practically without turning a finger. Benjamin Franklin Yoakum had previously paid him \$25,000 to "sit in" and for that sum Col. Allison allowed him the privilege of doing most of the hard work. What Colonel Allison brought to the transaction was his pull with Sir Sam, who, so far as the evidence goes, does not seem to have been quite certain as to when Colonel Allison ceased to be a disinterested patriot working for sheer love of Sir Sam and the British Empire, and became a gravel scratcher on his own account.

Blissful Ignorance.

Sir Sam was, in fact, in a blissful state of ignorance as to his Morrisburg friend's change of heart from gratuitous lover of the British Empire to Wall Street broker out for himself.

Canadian manufacturers were being constantly told to "see Allison" and things generally were running along as if Col. Allison were still operating on the old, unmercenary basis.

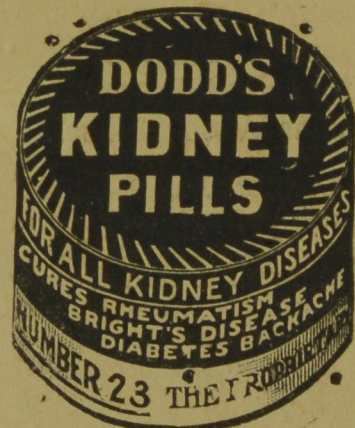
Of course if the Minister of Militia had known, the Canadian manufacturers would not have been told to "see Allison." It would be Allison's business to see them. Colonel Allison, however, seems to have had little desire to do business with Canadians. He preferred to hatch mushroom companies in the United States, where he could watch them closer.

Such indeed was Col. Allison's love for Sir Sam that whenever he could he gave Sir Sam's native land the worst of it. How Sir Sam's heart must bleed when he reads the Commission's report and learns how his friend threw him down! One can imagine the tears flooding his eyes and waterlogging his copy of the report.

Not a Square Game.

Evidently the Commission thinks that Col. John Wesley Allison didn't play a square game and just as evidently the Militia Department, now under the tutelage of Under Secretary McCurdy, believes that he was guilty of a flank movement, for word has issued that Colonel Allison may resign if he likes.

Just here arise a number of prickly questions. Does an honorary colonel resign when his honor has been excised by the report of a Royal Commission? If an honorary colonel of Sir Sam's making resigns, does his maker resign with him? In pursuit of his boasted virtue of standing by his friends, does Sir Sam accompany them into oblivion? Sir Sam's hero, having been found guilty of grabbing commissions which as a disinterested altruist he was supposed to spurn, is there an oblique reflection on Sir Sam's judgment in the choice of friends?



HIGH GREEK OFFICER DEPOSED.

King Constantine Dismisses His Aide-de-Camp.

Athens, Aug. 7.—General Panyotis Danglis, former minister of war, chief of the general staff during the first Balkan war, and credited with being one of the inventors of the famous French 3-inch gun, has been removed from his post as royal aide de camp by King Constantine.

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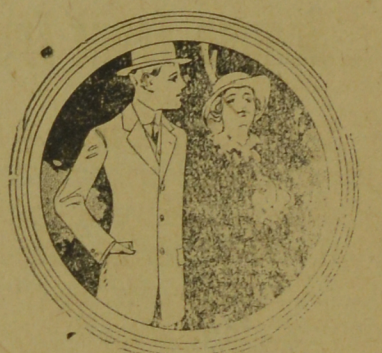
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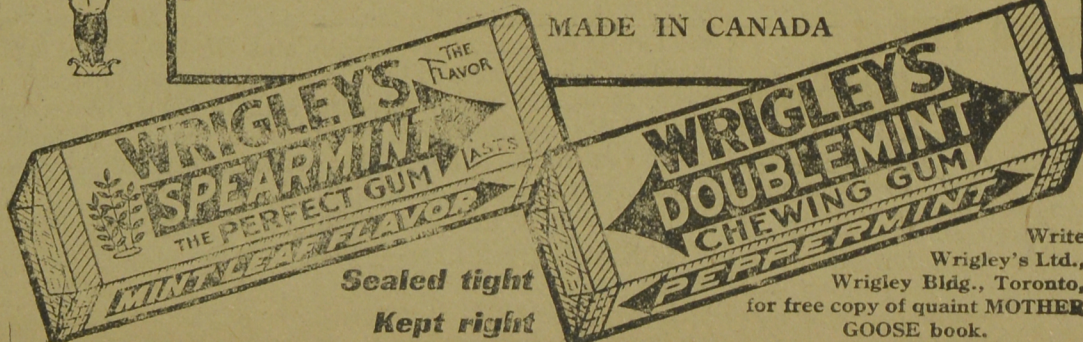
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