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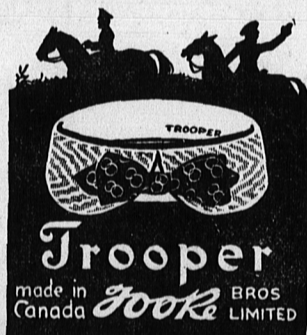
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### THE PURCHASE OF WAR SUPPLIES

(Continued from page two)  
THE PREMIER'S STAND.

Before the Public Accounts Committee began the work of the session, the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, and Hon. Major General Hughes conferred with Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs, who was a member of the committee, with regard to the pending investigations. The Prime Minister's instructions heartily concurred in by his colleagues, were that the members of the committee were to be given the broadest scope in prosecuting their enquiries, that all cases of alleged wrong-doing must be rigorously probed, and that where the committee's findings warranted it, proceedings should be instituted for restitution and punishment.

#### DR. REID'S CLEAR-CUT STATEMENT.

Speaking in the committee on March 24th, 1915, Hon. Dr. Reid said:

"I want to say that if there is any information the committee wants, or any wrong-doing, that as far as the government is concerned, we want to ferret it right to the bottom; we do not want to shield any person."

On the day following, March 25th, the Minister spoke to the same effect:

"The Government is determined to protect fully the interests of the country in this and in all cases, and to take such proceedings as may be necessary for that purpose."

Later on during the same sitting he made the following declaration:

"I want to repeat here again that so far as the Government is concerned they want to prosecute their investigation to the very utmost limit. As representing the Government, I have stated that we want to get to the bottom of these matters."

On the ninth of April Dr. Reid reit-

erated the Government's position in the following words:

"I also want to say that so far as going in to these or any other matters in connection with the Militia or any other department, the Government are not only willing but anxious to go into them from start to finish and get the true facts out in order that if there has been any wrong-doing, either restitution shall be made or prosecution shall be undertaken, to put matters right."

Again, on the same day, the Minister of Customs said:

"So far as these matters under investigation are concerned, or any others in connection with the Militia or any other department that have been brought up here, it is the intention of the Government to further the investigation and get to the bottom of every matter. We will follow this investigation from now on, until we see exactly whether there are any other matters where there has been any wrong-doing."

No Opposition member ventured to question the good faith of the Government of the committee's work. The earnest at any time throughout the following excerpt from the official report of April 9th, makes this clear:

Dr. Reid:—"I want to have it also understood that it is not the Government who are responsible for stopping any investigations."

Mr. Carvell:—"I thought we had put that very plainly."

Mr. Kyte:—"That is perfectly understood."

#### PREMIER BORDEN'S STRONG STAND

Although these irregularities involved comparatively small sums, the discovery was followed by prompt action on the part of the Government. They related to the purchase of drugs, binoculars and horses. The Department of Justice was instructed to investigate these matters more fully and to institute legal proceedings against the wrong doers. Two Conservative members, Mr. Garland, of Carleton, Ontario and Mr. Foster, of Kings, Nova Scotia, were found guilty of indiscretion in relation to army supplies though neither of them was convicted of actual wrong-doing, they were publicly rebuked by Sir Robert Borden from his place in Parliament, and Mr. Foster resigned his seat. The reasons the Prime Minister gave Parliament for the censure thus passed on two of his own parliamentary supporters, were as follows:

"As far as the member for Carleton (Mr. Garland) is concerned, I have already alluded to the purchases by Mr. Powell. Mr. Garland was formerly the owner of the business which is now carried on by the Carleton Drug Company, as I understand. The business was transferred to an incorporated company, and I think we may fairly assume, without doing any injustice to Mr. Garland, that he is the principal person interested and concerned in that company. He had in his employ this young man who was devoting 12 to 14 hours a day to his duties and who received a salary of \$75.00 a month. He not only permitted, but he encouraged and assisted that young man to make a contract with the Government, under which, within a few weeks he acquired a profit of \$9,000. I cannot for one moment give my sanction or approval to a transaction of that character, because, to say the least, it is bound to arouse a very grave suspicion and a member of parliament, in respect of contracts with the Government, ought to keep himself absolutely above suspicion. Therefore, in respect to the hon. member for Carleton, and in respect of the hon. member for King's, N. S., I feel that I owe it as a duty to the Government of which I am the head, to the party of which in Federal affairs, I am the leader and to this House and to this country to express, as I do here express, my very grave disapproval of their conduct in respect of the matters

which have been under investigation by the Public Accounts Committee." (Hansard, April 15th, 1915, p. 2695.)

#### RESTITUTION AND PUNISHMENT.

Elsewhere in the same speech (page 2690) the Prime Minister emphatically stated the Government's position regarding frauds practised in certain individual sales of horses to the Militia Department:

"Evidence has been given of some fraud or imposition practised upon the Government in connection with this matter by certain persons who sold horses to the Government. Some of the most disgraceful and cynical passages that were ever uttered in the presence of the Public Accounts Committee have occurred in the sworn testimony of certain men brought before that committee as witnesses in this matter,—

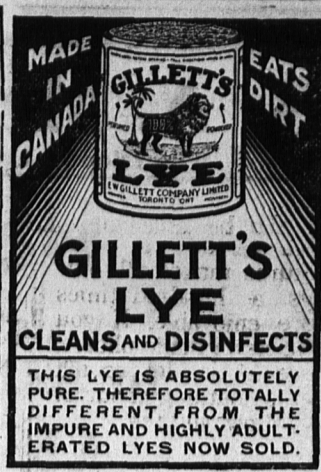
men who did not hesitate to declare upon their oath that they were defrauding the Government, and rejoiced in the opportunity to do so. So far as these men are concerned, I make this statement: First, if the laws of this country permits the courts of justice to enforce restitution against them\* that restitution will be enforced; secondly, that if those laws permit the walls of the penitentiary to encircle them, they will go there."

#### TO SAFEGUARD THE TREASURY.

To further safeguard the country's interests during the remainder of the war-period, Sir Robert Borden announced, on the eve of the prorogation of the 1915 session, that a commission of eminent business men would be appointed to supervise all army purchases under the \$100,000,000 war appropriation granted by Parliament:

"What do we propose to do? We

propose, as soon as this Parliament prorogues, to take up the question of the purchase of supplies under the appropriation of \$100,000,000, and we propose to have a commission appointed of either one man or three men—I have not yet decided whether it would be better to have one man or three—deal with the whole question. If we select one man we shall endeavor to get the best available business man in Canada for the purpose. If we select three men the same qualifications will be required of them. We will get the very best that are available. We will select those men without regard to any consideration at all except to employ men of the ripest experience, the highest ability and the most perfect integrity. Having selected that one man or those three men, we shall confide to them the whole direction and control of all supplies which are to be purchased under the appropr-



tion of \$100,000,000. "We believe that in that way we shall be able to safeguard most thoroughly and effectively, (Continued on page six)

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