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## COLONEL HUGHES AND CANADIAN STEEL

### Sir Sam tells how the British Government wanted American firms to supply shells and Ammunition, and how he discovered that Canadian Steel was as good as if not better than the American Article thus placing Canadian Steel in the forefront of the Market.

(CONTINUED)

The Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence resumed his speech after the adjournment and spoke as follows:

I now come to a very interesting part of the discussion, namely, the Shell Committee. And here let me frankly admit to the House that it is my baby; I am the father of the concern, be it for good or be it for bad, and I purpose sticking to it as long as it has a button left on its jacket. Let me point out the facts of the case, and when I get through I propose giving some evidence—not hearsay, but evidence. In July 1914, owing to the fact that the Kaiser had been rattling his sabre up and down the streets of Berlin for a year or two, and that the clang of the Krupp forges had been keeping the financial and commercial world a little uneasy for some considerable time, business in this country was at a standstill. Factories were closed, dinner halls were empty and commercial and financial disaster faced the British Empire, Great Britain and almost every country on the face of the earth. That was the general condition prevailing when war broke out, and the breaking out of war did not make the capitalists of the country any more ready to invest their money, or bankers more ready to back up commercial men in any enterprise they might undertake. When war was declared Canada fearlessly did her duty. The right hon. the Prime Minister immediately cabled to the division commanding from 17,000 to 20,000 soldiers. On the night of the 7th of August, 1914, this offer was accepted. Accordingly, the soldiers were summoned to Valcartier—but of that I will speak later.

On the 24th August, 1914, the War Office sent us a letter, asking if we could procure them a small order for shells in the United States. On reflection, it struck me that the highly equipped industries of Canada, which were standing idle at the time, could readily manufacture shells. I had seen shrapnel shells being made in the arsenal at Quebec, and it is merely a blacksmith's job. Accordingly we called a meeting of the Canadian manufacturers.

Mr. HARVELL: Do I understand the Minister to say that shells had been manufactured in Canada before the outbreak of the war?

Sir SAM HUGHES: Yes, at the arsenal at Quebec. About 75 shells per day was made. The hon. member will understand that an inquiry was made a long time ago, and it was found that out of 75 shells that we picked out to test, fifteen would not go into the guns. I know whereof I speak.

At that meeting of manufacturers, which was a very large one, they were so nervous over their capital that only a very small number—I forget the exact number—could be induced to do so until we took them down to Quebec, and showed them during a period of several days how the manufacturing of shells was done, comparing with the splendid machinery in their big factories. In some cases we had to get them financially encouraged by the banking institutions before we could induce that small number at the beginning to enter into the shell business. We lent them of the department, and, in passing, yet me say that we lent these experts also to the big firms in the United States which had been making shells and which had asked the privilege of consulting our experts and seeing our factories turning out shells. We also sent our experts from factory to factory in the United States to give instruction in the making of shells for the urgency Government, because the Shell Committee was then formed. This is a sample of a shrapnel shell (exhibiting shell), do not suppose to cause an explosion, but it is a shell.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: No, it is empty.

Sir SAM HUGHES: No, it is empty. I take the order that the House should understand the matter. This is what we term an empty shell (showing the whole shell). This is the copper shell case (showing), with the steering driving band on the flange part which fits on the top of the shell case is called the fuse-plug, and in the shell

## OTTAWA PARLIAMENT BUILDING DAMAGED IF NOT DESTROYED BY FIRE OF INCENDIARY ORIGIN

### Two Lives Known to be Lost, Scores Badly Injured. Hon. Martin Burrell Among those Severely Burned. Number of Explosions Occurred and Flames Spread so Rapidly that Members and Senators Escaped with Greatest Difficulty. Fire not Under Control at One O'clock this Morning. Damage Estimated at Ten Millions.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 4.—Fire which broke out in the reading-room adjacent to the Chamber of the Commons in the main building of Parliament House and rapidly spread, at 1 a.m. is still beyond control of the Fire Department and is spreading into the Senate side of the building. Two lives are known to be lost, while scores are badly burned. The most seriously of those who escaped is Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, who was severely burned about the neck, arms and hands, and was taken to the hospital in a condition from which he is expected to recover.

The damage is estimated at ten millions. Members in the House of Commons and Senate had to fight their way to liberty through tongues of flame. People in the upper story jumped from the windows. Speaker Severyn and wife jumped from their apartments into a life net and were saved. Dr. Michael Clarke was knocked down by streams of water and was severely burned. Sir Robert Borden escaped, but lost his coat and hat. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not in the Chamber.

So far as can be ascertained at 1 a.m. all the members are safe. Several explosions occurred during the fire and the belief is that it was of incendiary origin. So rapidly did it spread that it is believed the incendiaries spread chemicals about the building of a most inflammable character and that once part of it ignited there was a fire in a dozen different places at once. For some time some such attempt had been expected and had been taken. Guards have been doubled and all the doors save the main entrance had been locked. This very fact added to the difficulties of escape. The roof of the Commons Chamber fell in and the Chamber of the Commons was also destroyed, with valuable furnishings and priceless pictures.

The fire was replete with spectacular scenes, including the escape of the Hon. the Speaker, Mr. Borden and other members of the building, who were carried down ladders. Sir Robert Borden and Sir Sam Hughes took charge of the work of rescue and laboured gallantly.

Some of the most spectacular rescues were made in that section of the building. There were many employees in the restaurant at the time and the lower corridors were filled with smoke so quickly that they were unable to get down stairs. They were rescued by a party of firemen who went to the roof and reached the windows looking down on the front. They were soon noticed there and from hundreds

## MILITARY MATTERS DISCUSSED IN HOUSE

### Why Armand Lavergne is Allowed to Retain Rank in Militia. Appropriation of Machine Gun Fund Explained and Many Questions Answered by Col. Sam Hughes.

(Special to the Guardian.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 3.—The reason why Col. Armand Lavergne is allowed to retain his rank in the militia was furnished to Dr. Edwards of Frontenac in the House today by the Minister of Militia and Defence. A number of other questions bearing on military matters were also asked and much information furnished in connection therewith. The Government's answer to the question whether Col. Lavergne still retained his rank was that such was the case, he being still commander of the 61st Montagny Regiment of the Canadian Militia. As to the question whether it intended to allow Col. Lavergne to retain his rank, the answer was given that the Government course in this matter was governed by the provisions of the Militia Act under which officers and men of the militia are subject to military law only (a) from the time of being called out for active service (b) during the period of annual drill or training under the provisions of this Act—(c) At any time while upon military duty or in the uniform of his corps or within any rifle range or any armory or other place where arms, guns, ammunition or other military stores are kept, or within any Drill Shed or other building or place used for militia purposes. (d) During any drill or parade of his corps at which he is present in the ranks (e) When going to or from the place of drill or parade and (f) at any drill or parade of his corps at which he is present as a spectator whether in uniform or not.

Mr. J. H. Sinclair of Guelph was informed that \$1,661,272 had been re-appropriated by the Government from private sources for Machine Guns. A large number of such guns had been ordered and a considerable number, it was not considered advisable to deliver, just how many had been delivered. It was the Government's intention to apply the money contributed for Machine Guns for the purpose intended.

Sir Sam Hughes informed Mr. E. M. MacDonald that four inspectors of munitions had been appointed by the Minister of Militia on the recommendation of the Chief Inspector of arms and ammunition and had either some previous knowledge of the work or were Mechanical Engineers. No appointments had ever been made on the recommendation of the person having the political patronage in the district where the inspector was employed and in all cases he had been selected for Technical qualifications only.

A statement as to the procedure followed in obtaining supplies for the troops at local headquarters was furnished by Gen. Sam Hughes to Mr. Hughes of Kings, P. E. I. It was stated that where the time permitted tenders were usually called by public advertisement. If the time were too short a circular letter or telegram from Ottawa was addressed to dealers whose names were furnished by the war purchasing association. In some cases where urgency was necessary the officer commanding the district was authorized to procure tenders transmitted then to Ottawa for approval. The lowest tenders were in all cases accepted.

Mr. Kyte of Richmond was told that the Government had commandeered 13,621,806 bushels of wheat last year. Authority for the purchase had been cabled by the Secretary of State for the Government. Mr. Hughes of Kings was informed that the Charlottetown Board of Trade had requested the Government to subsidize a steamer for the trade between Prince Edward Island and St. John's, Newfoundland in 1916 and had suggested the Red Cross steamship line of New York for the service. Tenders had been invited from 15 firms and a contract awarded to the only person submitting a proposal, a copy of the call for tenders having been sent to the Charlottetown Board of Trade.

## MORE PARTICULARS ABOUT S.S. APPAM

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., February 3.—The Appam brought her original passengers and 133 persons said to have been taken from other vessels by the German raider, the Appam, to the board are said to have been taken from an English ship from Australia.

There are 451 persons aboard the ship, including 138 survivors of seven other vessels. The Appam is a steamship of 11,000 tons, built in England. She was captured by the German raider on January 15th, by a German raider, the day that the

(Continued on Page Five.)

## CONDENSED ADS. TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges, twenty-five cents.

PRIME SAUSAGES ALWAYS ON HAND at Holman's, Charlottetown.

WOMAN WANTS POSITION TO DO housework good cook. Apply Guardian. 7120-2-3M4pd.

FOR SALE—NO. 8 HOME JEWEL cooking stove. Cheap. Apply at 230 Euston St. 6503-11MEH.

FOR SALE AT A BARGAIN—A 33 feet shafting 2 1/2 inch. Can be seen running now.—A. Ducommun & Co. 7154-2-4M2.

TO LET—THREE ROOMS WITH modern conveniences, suitable for light house keeping. Apply Guardian. 7120-2-3M3d.

LOST—ON FEB. 1ST BETWEEN Kosy Korner and Sidney St. a tan handbag. Finder please leave at Guardian. 7135-2-3M4pd.

LOST SUNDAY FORENOON, A GENTleman's glove, between Dartmouth and Hartsville. Finder please return to Harry Moore, Milton, P. E. I. 7148-2-4M1.

TO LET—A SMALL BEDROOM suitable for nurse or gentleman, in private family with all modern improvements including phone. Apply 84 Hillsboro Street. 6341-1-7M1.

Minard's Liniment cures Rheumatism.

## HARKINS PLAYERS AGAIN SCORE A BIG SUCCESS

"Our Wives," put on the boards at the Prince Edward Theatre last evening by the W. S. Harkins Company, is undoubtedly among the best comedies ever staged in Charlottetown; and executed by such a talented cast, it secured a tremendous success. It has probably been the best of the season so far. In view of the very disagreeable weather which prevailed, the attendance was remarkably good, while those who were unfortunate enough to miss "Our Wives" were considerably the poorer. "Our Wives" affords a wide scope for clever acting, and the trained members of the company were at home in their respective roles. There is nothing cheap or "shoddy" about it; there is absolutely nothing to offend even the most hypersensitive soul; it is just a racy, risible action throughout, with an appreciable vein of the dramatic, and one or two exciting complications. Frank Bowers, commonly called "Paste," is a successful librettist, who takes a keen interest in his art—a man with decidedly cynical views on women and matrimony, and therefore a confirmed bachelor. Corksey, Martin, Spidre, Lyon and "Rattler" Tatum, who with him have hitherto formed an impregnable anti-marriage alliance, suddenly and almost simultaneously, announce their several engagements, each and everyone of them to "the dearest girl in the world," and so on and so forth. AN

After his man and the "Paste" naturally succumb, and the end sees him as sentimental as ever "the happiest man alive." Mr. Joseph Selman was in his element in the serio-comic role he played; Mr. Wm. J. Townsend, as "Corksey" just what a self-assertive "happy

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## THE WEATHER, TEMPERATURE, TIDE, MOON, ETC.

(Special to the Guardian.)

TORONTO, February 4.—Main line; treat to strong westerly winds fair and cold.

THE WEATHER Yesterday was cool with heavy snow falls.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 23 degrees above zero; at nine o'clock yesterday morning it registered 21 degrees above zero; at one o'clock 21 degrees above zero; at the coldest the previous night was 19 degrees above zero.

The tide will be high this morning at 11:39 and tomorrow at 12:22; it will be high tomorrow morning at 12 and Saturday at 12:06.

The sun sets this afternoon at 5:10 and tomorrow at 5:12; it rises tomorrow morning at 7:17 and Sunday at 7:14.

The moon sets this evening at 6:47. The last quarter of the moon was on Thursday, January 27th at 8:35 p. m.

There will be a new moon on Thursday, Feb. 3rd, at 12:06 p. m.

The length of today will be nine hours and fifty-three minutes.

## COMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

ONE CENT per word each insertion of the advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges twenty-five cents.

\*\*Fresh Salmon, Halibut, Haddock, Cod Fish and Smelts this morning at Charlottetown Fish Supply Co. 7155-2-4-M11.

Minard's Liniment cures garget in cows.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.