### ROYAL COMMISSION TO SIFT CHARGES

Sir William Meredith and Mr. Justice Duff Will Investigate Fuse Contracts-Sir Sam Will Return

The Dominion Government has decided to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the contracts for fuses, under which, it is alleged, \$3,000,000 was advanced to two "mushroom" companies in the United States and out of which Col. J. Wesley Allison and his associates divided a commission of \$1,000,000. Major-Gen. Sir Sam Hughes has cabled a denial that he had any improper connection with these contracts, and will return to Canada as quickly as possible. Si william R. Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, and Mr. Justico Lyman P. Duff, of the Supreme Court of Canada, have consented to serve upon the commission. Able counsel will be retained to assist the commission. One of them will be selected by the Government and the other by the leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister in his speech admitted that the Government was receding from its original position. The jurisdictional point as to the power of the Canadian Government to investigate expenditures by Ammunition Company, capital \$1,000, raider and dropped several bombs on the Imperial Government will be got- having no plant, received fus orders with effect. The L-15 was brought ten over by obtaining the consent of on which \$1,565,400 wan paid before down by land batteries in the Thames the Imperial authorities to such in- any delivery was made. That the estuary. vestigation. A cable was sent to the International Arms and Fuse Com-Colonial Secretary asking for such pany, capital \$3,000, having no plant, permission. While no definite charge, received \$1,687,000 before delivery. sons who were injured in the Zeppein the Prime Minister's opinion, had That E. B. Cadwell, president of the lin raid were rendered unconscious by been made against any member of International Fuse and Arms Co.; asphyxiating bombs. Eyewitnesses are situated in Montreal, but none are the Government, he said that there B. F. Yoakum, New York, and E. N. concur that Zeppelin raiders never equipped in any way for the training was room for the insinuation that Col. Bassick, Bridgeport, Conn., entered previously met with such a cannonade of adult blind. The Maritime Provin-J. Wesley Allison took advantage of into a written agreement to divide from anti-aircraft guns. The raiders, his personal friendship with the \$1,000,000 for getting contracts from individually and in concert, attempt-Minister of Militia to influence him to the shell committee before such con- ed to progress inland during a greater sanction improper contracts.

#### Liberals Not Satisfied

Several Liberal members manifested strong opposition to the proposal of Sir Robert Borden to commit the investigation to a Royal Commission. Mr. Carvell (Carleton, N.B.) who had led the fight for a Parliamentary investigation interrupted the Premier with cries of "Shame, shame." Sir Wilfrid Laurier emphatically declared that the proposals were entirely unacceptable, claiming that the only court to try the charges was the high court of Parliament. "No proposals that I could make," Sir Robert retorted, "would satisfy the Right Honorable Leader of the Opposition. am less concerned, however, about there was nothing unusual in the Gov- approached the northeast coast Satursatisfying him than I am about satis- ernment advancing money to contrac- day night. Only one crossed the coast. fying the people of Canada. I have tors before the work was actually The other turned back. For the preno doubt that the people of this coun- done. Whenever there was a large sent we know that sixteen persons try will be entirely satisfied."

Premier's Statement

The Premier began by briefly quoting excerpts from his speech delivered in the House of Commons during the early stages of the debate upon the Laurier resolution for an investigation of the Shell Committee. These excerpts, taken together, stated what had been the position of the Government. They recited in detail the reasons for refusing an investigation. The principal reason, of course, was that tne Canadian Parliament had no jurisdiction to sit in judgment upon the conduct or misconduct of the British Government or officials of the British Government. They also contained the proposition that if any member of the House, upon his responsibility as a member, made any charge against a member of the Government, then such charge would be promptly investigatmittee with the Edward: Valve Co.

### Scope Not Limited

"Upon careful enquiry I cannot find that any of the other contracts out of which it is alleged by the Hon. Member for Richmond that J. Wesley Allison obtained profits or commissions, were made either by the Shell Committee or by any department of the Government of Canada. However, as it has been alleged that the Shell Committee made a contract with the Providence Chemical Company of St. Louis that alleged contract will be included. I therefore propose," said the Premier, "to recommend to his Royal Highness the Governor-General that a Royal Commission shall issue appointing one or more judges to make a thorough investigation into these four contracts and all matters connected therewith." The Prime Minister then read to the House a cablegram he had to Major-General Sir Sam Hughes. The message stated briefly the Kyte charges and contained the following peremptory command for the Minister's immediate return to failure of a German infantry attack Canada: "I propose issuing a Royal Commission forthwith to investigate Somme River, near Dompierre, the fuse and cartridge case contracts, and shelling by the French of German Official Figures of Enlistments in it is necessary that you return immediately for the purpose of enquiry." Forest, and the battering of German Sir Robert then read the Minister's re- positions in the Forest of Apremont. ply, which ran as follows: " Please state to the House that I have no improper connection with contracts referred to or any other contracts. If any suggestion to the contrary is made I respectfully demand full investigation by the judicial tribunal presided over by Sir Charles Da idson. I shall sail first available boat. (Signed) "Sam

dentist, has been charged with mur- victim of amnesia (lost memory), and der in the first degree.

Hughes."

# KYTE CHARGES ALLISON WITH HUGE RAKE-OFF

Alleged Mushroom United States Companies Made Profits Long Before Delivery of Shell Fuses

In the House of Commons, Ottawa, on Tuesday night George W. Kyte (Liberal) of Richmond, preferred an elaborate indictment against the shells committee in connection with the contract for fuses. He read from the record to prove on June 9, 1905, contracts were awarded to two American companies for fuses involving an expenditure of \$22,000,000. One company was called the American Ammunition Company, and the other was called the International Arms and Fuse Company. He read from the articles of incorporation to show that the first company was incorporated under the laws of Virginia just three weeks before it received an order from the shells committee aggregating about \$11,000,000. The company had no plant or business of any kind and its paid up capital was \$1,000.

Hughes' Formal Approval

tracts were in writing. That Col. J. part of the night, but were repeatedly with Yoakum and Eugene Lignant, machine of Lieut. Brandon was In musician, of Montreal, to secure con- several times by machine gun bullets tracts, and that Lignant disposed of from the Zeppelin. Alfred Brandon, his one-tenth interest later for \$50,000. the British airman, is a native of That Major-Gen. Hughes gave his for- Wellington, N.Z. He only joined the mal approval to Allison's transactions. Flying Corps last July. Mr. Kyte argued that the trail led directly up to the Minister of Militia and Defence, because the contract with the American Ammunition Co., after being duly executed by the shell committee, was formally ratified by Major-Gen. Hughes.

Sir Thomas Defends

half of the Government. He said that details are available. Two airships initial expense, such as installing were killed and about 100 injured. machinery, it was customary for the The total casualties reported in the Government to make advances to the Zeppelin raid on the night of March contractors. The Minister said he 31-April 1 now amount to forty-three knew nothing about the particular cor- killed and sixty-six injured. Nearly for granted that they had given ample went up to atttack the raiders." guarantee bonds for the faithful performance of their contracts.

# GERMAN HORDES STILL DRIVEN TO SLAUGHTER

Verdun Defences Roll Back More Attacks-Aircraft and Artillery Busy Around Crown Prince's Objective

Despatches from London on Suned. "This has not been done," said day said: "The Germans are still carthe Prime Minister, "but," he contin- rying on strong offensive operations ued, "the Hon. Member for Richmond northeast and northwest of Verdun. (Mr. Kyte) made statements as to the About four and one-half miles northconnection of the Minister of Militia east of the fortress they penetrated with certain contracts entered into by the Caillette Wood, just outside Fort the Shell Committee, and as to enor- Douaumont, after a violent bombardmous profits or commissions arising ment. From part of this wood the out of these contracts to certain com- French, in an immediate counterpanies which he mentioned. It is al- attack, drove back the invaders. Anleged that Mr. J. Wesley Allison had other powerful attack was delivered a very large interest in these profits against that portion of the Avocourt or commissions, and it is suggested Wood held by the French, but there that, through his influence with the the French barrier fire and machine Minister of Militia, the Shell Com- guns held the Germans without gain. mittee was induced to make the con- The French have now entirely evacutracts in question. The Minister of ated the village of Vaux and have Militia and Defence had previously drawn their line south of the town, stated to the House his close relation but in its immediate outskirts. On to Mr. J. Wesley Allison and his great the other sectors about Verdun there confidence in that gentleman. Having have been only intermittent bombardregard to these considerations," the ments; artillery duels have charac-Premier continued, "I think it desir- terized the fighting along the remainable that an enquiry should be made | der of the front. Aircraft have been into the fuse contracts made by the very active around Verdun. The Shell Committee with the American French brought down three German Ammunition Co., and the International | machines, but Berlin asserts that the Arms and Fuse Co., and the cartridge | aerial combats have resulted in their case contract made by the Shell Com- favor. Both sides have been busily engaged in dropping bombs on military establishments at various points. Having captured the village of Ma- ceived. lancourt, the Germans have now shifted their offensive eastward to the sector around the famous Le Mort Homme. With heavy forces the Teu- Raider's Band Scattered in First tons have attacked the French line between Hill 295 and Le Mort Homme and succeeded in entering French first

Another Attack Fails

The Germans have made no attempt

to debouch from Malancourt since thei occupation of the village. The heavy bombardments of preceding days in the region northwest of Verdun have greatly slackened, and there also has been only moderate activity by the big guns to the north and the east of the fortress. Paris reports the

against the French to the south of the troops on the march in the Argonne

Professor Lavell Found? A despatch from Colorado Springs and a message received by Mrs. Lavell herself in Toronto indicate that the three-year mystery of the disappearance of Prof. Cecil F. Lavell, Ph.D. formerly of Queen's University, Kingston, has been solved by his being found in that town. The message said that "he was picked up here after Dr. A. W. Waite, the New York | wandering nearly three years. He is admits his identity."

# BABY-KILLERS TAKEN: HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE

"It is War," Says Hun-Captors Very Kind-New Zealander the Hero-Three More Raids

With the exception of the big raid of January 31, when the casualties injured, the Zeppelin raids of Friday and Saturday nights caused greater loss of life than any previous aerial attack this year. The total casualties for the two nights, according to an official report, were 59 persons killed and 166 wounded. The casualties of Sunday's raid in which Scotland was attacked by Zeppelins for the first time, are not yet known. The British public finds satisfaction in practical proof afforded of a great improvement in the defensive methods of dealing with aerial incursions. For the first time since the inception of this method of warfare on the British coast, not only has one raiding Zeppelin, L-15, been brought down and its crew taken prisoner, but the official report recounts an exciting aerial fight between a Zeppelin and a Britis air-Mr. Kyte charged that the American to a height of 9,000 feet, got over the

Defences Improved

It is stated that a number of per-

Hundreds of Casualties

Official bulletins dealing with the Zeppelin raids of Sunday, Saturday and Friday nights read as follows: "A Zeppelin raid took place Sunday night, when the coast of Scotland and the northern and southeastern counties of England were attacked. Bombs Hon. W. T. White followed on be- were dropped at various places. No porations, the American Ammunition 200 explosive and incendiary bombs Company and the International Arms were dropped. There was no military and Fuse C mpany, but he took it damage. A number of our aeroplanes Crew Were Afraid

"None of the men of the L-15 would

admit that bombs had been dropped during the raid, probably from the unfounded fear that any such admission would entail punishment. The prisoners will be placed with the other German prisoners, and no difference will be made in their treatment. All the captured German officers and men will receive the same British service."

Hun Captain's Story

"I do not think you would find an officer of the German navy or army who would willingly participate in the killing of women and children," said Lieut.-Commander Breithaupt, commander of the Zeppelin L-15. "I am very well satisfied with the treatment here. We have a much more important object in view than the killing of women and children-namely, the destroying of the enemy's armed positions, warships and factories. Women and children become the victims of our operations, but not because we kill them intentionally. is war." Lieut. Kuehne, second in command, said that it was his first raid on England. "I had hoped to come again," he added. Asked wheth r he participated gladly in air raids, Commander Breithhaupt replied: "Yes. I do my duty as an officer gladly. As to the risk in air fighting we know the chantes we run." Breithkaupt wore an Iron Cross of the October, 1915, raid, and had been with the Zeppelins since war broke out. All the members of the airship's crew, when interrogated, expressed satisfaction at the treatment they had re-

### Villa's Band Scattered

Clash With Pursuers

Four hundred American cavalrymen line trenches. A vigorous counter- under the command of Col. George. A. attack by the French, however, almost Dodd, have fallen on the main body immediately expelled the invaders, of Francisco Villa's bandits at the San and another attack by the Teutons, Geronimo ranch, scattering them in delivered a little later, is declared by many directions and driving the ban-Paris to have been put down complete- dit chief, wounded and crippled, to seek a hiding place in the mountains. Villa was hurried from danger in a carriage. The fight opened at 6 o'clock in the evening of March 29, and continued for several hours. Col. Dodd with picked troopers of the Seventh and Tenth Cavalry fell upon the unsuspecting Villa camp, where 500 bandits were celebrating the massacre of 172 Carranza soldiers two days previously at Guerrero.

### Nearly 300,000 in Khaki

Canada and Cost in Dollars

Sir Robert Borden announced in the House of Commons last week that the enlistments in the Canadian army to date were 290,000. Of these 112,000 are in Great Britain or at the front, and 136,000 are in Canada. There have been 22,000 casualties, and the wastage has been 21,700. At the end of February the total war cost to Canada was \$187,000,000. Sir Robert has given notice of a resolution to provide for \$250,000,000 for war expenses, to give the Governor-in-Council power to raise by way of loan such sums as are required for war purposes

# CARE OF THE BLIND

According to the last Dominion census there are 3,200 blind people in Canada; of these Ontario claims 1,100. Statistics tell us that 80 or aggregated 67 persons killed and 117 90 per cent. of the blind of every civilized country are adults over 20 years of age; 60 per cent. of the blind of Canada are over the age of 15. In the adult class, it is more than probable that the next census will find these numbers of the blind largely increased, owing to its war. What machinery has Canada ready to train and equip these blind that they may become self-supporting? There are five blind schools in the Dominion. Only one of these is in any way equipped or suitable for the training of adults, the blind training college in Halifax, which, under the leadership but pray three times when you are of Sir Frederick Fraser, has become going to be married. the model blind school of Canada. man, Lieut. Brandon, who, mounting This institution is supported partly by municipal grants and by a pre rata only one hole. grant of from \$150 to \$200 a year for each pupil attending the school from Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces. The blind school at Brantford is the only one supported by the state. The other three schools ces come nearest to the problem of help for blind workers by the Maritime Association of the Blind, whose Wesley Allison was in an agreement checked by a tornado of shells. The field secretary, S. R. Hussey, follows up pupils and others who are attempting to earn their living, and endeavors to arouse public support and interest on their behalf. Two years ago Sir Frederick Fraser turned over \$1,000 to this association from the superintendents' fund, to be loaned out for purchase of tools or equipment. Canada is ahead of any other country regarding her care of the blind in one particular. Before the year 1898 no country allowed literature for the blind to go free through its mails. Canada was the first to grant this privilege, and this was largely owing to the instrumentality of Sir Frederick Trager. America followed Canada's lead a few years later, by allowing free postage of books from public libraries to the in-' vidual only. In England there are a large number of voluntary workers for the blind, who print books in the and interest. In the United States each state is compelled by constitution to provid for its blind citizens, that is the interest of the state. Can we not hope for a combination of these two examples throughout the Dominion, and commence right away by arousing public opinion everywhere to the great need of the blind pay as those of equal rank in the in this country?—Grace E. Kennedy.

A Quick Trip

After the racing season closed at New Orleans one season a colored roustabout asked where the next meeting was to be held.

He was told "Toronto."

"Is it far?" "Just a short distance," was the reply, so he jumped in a boat and started to row there. When about four miles from New Orleans an acquaintance on the bank hailed him with: "Hello, Link, ole boy!" Link started for the shore, musing to him-

"Ah, wondah who knows me in Tor



A Serbian Woman

The peasant costume of the Serbs is most picturesque, the feature of it being a fringed apron of guady polors and beautiful finish. The women are usually healthy and powerful and in many cases beau-

SOME RUSSIAN PROVERBS.

The cynical humor of the Russians is admirably illustrated by their proverbs, a selection of which we give from the "National Proverbs of Russia," published by Frank Palmer:

You cannot sew buttons on your neighbor's mouth.

When money speaks, truth keeps The German may be a good

fellow, but it is better to hang A woman's hair is long, but her sense is short.

A fool shoots; God guides the The spoken word cannot be

swallowed. The greatest king must at last be put to bed with a shovel. Dogs bark and the wind carries A dog is wiser than a woman;

he does not bark at his master. Where God builds a church, there the devil has his chapel. If you go to war, pray: if you go on a sea journey, pray twice:

If you are not caught, you are no thief.

It is a stupid mouse that knows

It's a bad soldier who does not aspire to be a general. What is good for the Russian is death for the German. Twice the wife is dear to

husband-when he marries

and when he buries her. HER CHOICE.

When I am big, mamma, going to marry a doctor or a minister. Why my dear?

Because, if I marry a doctor l

can get well for nothing, and if marry a minister I can be good for nothing.-Woman's Journal.

which you have been suffering for so long, if you will only use an oint ment that is capable of reaching the seat of the trouble. Zam-Buk can do this because of its unusual penetrating power.. Also, Zam-Buk is a strong germicide-germs cannot live where Zam-Buk is applied, so that the germs are destroyed not only on the surface, but in all the diseased underlying tissue. Then healing commences; new tissue replacing the old and diseased, until the sore is thoroughly and permanently cured.

The case of Miss Frances Daudin, of Somerset, Man., verifies the above statement. She writes: "I suffered for over twenty years with an ulcer on my leg, and all the remedies tried during that time proved ineffective. Several doctors treated me. but I got no benefit. Finally I tried Zam-Buk, and I am thankful to say that after perseverance with this cintment I am now completely cured."

Zam-Buk is also splendid for eczema, abscesses, boils, pimples, ringworm, piles, blood-polsoning, cuts, burns, and all skin injuries and diseases. Best balm for baby's seres. All druggists, 50c. box, 3 for \$1 25. or from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto.



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