

WHAT CANADA IS DOING IN SHELL MANUFACTURE

Brig.-Gen. Bertram Gives Some Interesting Details.

NINE MILLION SHELLS

BEING MADE BY 247 FACTORIES IN CANADA

And Between 60,000 and 70,000 Artisans Are Employed—The Weekly Wage Bill Amounts To a Million Dollars.

Toronto, June 10.—At a luncheon given at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club to-day in connection with the annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association the principal guest was Brigadier-General Alexander Bertram, formerly of Dundas, but now of Ottawa, chairman of the Dominion Shell Committee. By special request General Bertram spoke on the work of the important organization over which he presides. He said:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the kind invitation of my friends of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to tell them something of the development of certain Canadian industries during the past few months. Little did I conceive, and I am sure neither did you, when you held your last annual meeting that twelve months later I should appear before you as Chairman of a Committee appointed by the Government to superintend the manufacture of munitions of war. Everything at that time looked peaceful. The war clouds had not gathered; indeed, did not even appear to be gathering. To-day, however, Canada as part of the British Empire, is engaged in the greatest war that the world has ever known. It is not the lot of every man to be able to go to the front. The man who stays at home, provided he bends his energies in the right direction, can render equally as effective service in the cause of right and justice, as represented by the Allies in this war, as the man behind the guns or the one who is actually serving in the trenches. This remark applies equally to the employer and the employee.

In this connection may I make one brief citation from a recent statement by a man who stands high in the councils of the Empire, a man whose name is revered by every patriotic Briton, I mean Lord Kitchener. Only the other day the Secretary for war, from his office at Whitehall, sent out this statement to the people of the United Kingdom. "I have said that I would let the country know when men were wanted for the war. The time has come, and I now call for 300,000 recruits to form new armies. Those who are engaged in the production of war material of any kind should not leave their work. It is to men who are not performing this duty that I appeal."

My chief object in addressing you to-day in my capacity as chairman of the Shell Committee, is to let the people of Canada know what the Dominion is doing in the manufacture of munitions of war. It is surprising what little knowledge men have of our work; men of ordinary intelligence who, through the public press, should be cognizant of the situation as it exists to-day in this country. For instance, I read in an Ottawa newspaper last week a long editorial written by a gentleman in his office which is situated within two blocks of the headquarters of the Shell Committee, telling the Government what should be done to organize the manufacture of Canada. Although we have been at work for several months, and so far have produced and shipped 650,000 shells, evidently it has not dawned upon this gentleman that the Government, as well as the manufacturers of the Dominion, were alive to the necessities of the situation and were doing their respective parts loyally and enthusiastically.

Credit To General Hughes.

I am not here as an apologist for

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of having to import its refined copper, and I can assure you of this, that within three or four months we expect to be making in this country, from the native product, all the copper bands required in the production of shells.

At the outset our work was largely of a formative character. We wanted Canadian steel for Canadian shells. Heretofore none such had been forthcoming. Col. Cantley was entrusted with this work and the country is under deep obligation to him for having rapidly installed and equipped a plant for producing the first steel made in Canada for shell manufacture. It was agreed to supply free of charge to those manufacturers who would undertake the work of finishing and assembling the complete shells, all the component parts entering into the construction of the shell. In this way many of the smaller manufacturers were relieved of the financial burden of carrying a heavy stock of the raw materials, and which very largely contributed to the success of this huge undertaking. It was further decided to eliminate the element of competition by paying uniform prices for the same article. An inspection company was chosen to deal with all shell components, thus relieving the assembling manufacturers of the responsibility of inspection, while at the same time doing the work of the committee beyond question that the component parts of shells were correct in every particular before the finished article passed into the hands of the Government Inspector.

Orders For 9,000,000 Shells. Starting with the first order for 300,000 shrapnel we have since placed orders aggregating 9,000,000 shells, consisting of 15 and 18-pound shrapnel; 18-pounder, 4.5 and 60-pounder high explosive shells. In addition we have placed orders for 100,000 cartridges, 1,000,000 fuses, 2,000,000 primers, and 1,000,000 friction tubes.

Before awarding a contract careful investigation is made as to the ability of the firm to carry out the particular work assigned to it. If there is any doubt as to the firm being unsuitable a competent inspector is sent to report upon the state of the factory. You will quite understand that in order to safeguard the interests of the country the committee had to stipulate that contracts placed would be subject to cancellation. Each manufacturer adjusts his own machinery to the particular work assigned to him, and is furnished with a set of inspection gauges as a guide in making the manufacturing gauges required. The preparation of gauges and their distribution and use involved considerable labor, but we get it done and done well. To give you an idea of a certain feature of our work I may mention that the inspection of the various component parts, including the analyses of material, and district inspectors for the employment of over 300 inspectors, besides several chief inspectors. Most of the inspectors are experienced machinists and tool-makers. The final inspection of the finished shell is carried out by nearly 300 examiners and district inspectors under the direction of Col. Harston. Such an army of inspectors emphasizes the care which is being taken to produce satisfactory results, and which have been highly commented on by the officials of the War Office. Upon Col. Harston's tests are carried out at a certain place, the average number of shells fired daily being 300. As soon as the shells have passed examination, and have been packed ready for shipment the manufacturer receives his cheque.

130 Firms Making Them. In no one single establishment in Canada except the Dominion Arsenal at Quebec, is the complete shell made. One hundred and thirty firms from Halifax to Vancouver are engaged in the work of machining and assembling. Others are occupied in the manufacture of blanks, bullets, discs, cartridge cases, buchsht, primers, tubes, tin cups for shrapnel, grub screws, sockets and plugs, steel base plates, and boxes. From an enumeration of these various articles it will be observed how extensive the several operations are. At the present time no less than 247 factories are engaged in this work in 78 cities and towns in the Dominion. In Montreal alone 35 factories are employed. Toronto has 25, Hamilton, 17, and so on throughout the Dominion from coast to coast. Practically every province of Canada is participating in this enterprise. The manufacture of shells in this country is giving employment to between 60,000 and 70,000 artisans while the total weekly wage bill easily amounts to \$1,000,000. From these figures you will see what the shell-making industry means to the workingman as well as to the manufacturers of the Dominion. The changes which were necessary in the equipment of the various factories by adding new machinery, or in the readjustment of existing plants were made by the manufacturers themselves and at their own expense. These changes gave employment to many other factories which were not directly engaged in making ammunition. In the course of a very short time now we shall be producing from between 40,000 and 50,000 shells per day. For the contracts already placed it may interest you to know that 370,000 tons of steel, about 30,000 tons of lead, and several thousand tons of other materials are required.

By-Products For High Explosives. In referring to the various industries covered by the sphere of operations of the Shell Committee, I cannot but make allusion to the investigations conducted at the instance of the Minister of Militia in connection with the supply of propellants and high explosives. In addition to the manufacture of several thousand tons of cordite and powder in connection with the present contract, through his instrumentality an important new industry has been initiated in the Dominion, viz: the utilization of the by-products from the coke ovens of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company at Sydney, N.S., for the manufacture of the high explosive, trinitro-toluene. The revenue alone from the contract placed with this company will be nearly \$5,000,000. I mention this so as to give the gentlemen present an idea of what has been accomplished in one direction

only, but I think you will agree with me that the value of having such an industry in Canada far outweighs any monetary consideration which may be named.

We have endeavored to discover the ability of the various manufacturers to undertake the work, and it has been most gratifying to find not only a readiness to produce ammunition but an eager desire amongst all to assist the committee in carrying out its duties. The cordial co-operation of both employer and employee has been one of the finest features throughout the strenuous times in which we are now involved. I wish to emphasize here in particular that the backbone of the whole situation is the mechanical ability of our workmen who have done wonders in developing methods of manufacture which have hastened the production of the finished material. I could speak upon this subject for a much longer period, but I do not wish to weary you. I am sure you will give the Shell Committee credit in having done its best in this national crisis. I will say this, and I am sure every one of us will be glad to see the committee will concur, that in our work we have had no place, and we have been given an absolutely free hand. This is a time of national emergency in which every true Briton must do his part according to the ability with which he has been endowed. In the patriotic work in which we are engaged I am sure that all those associated with us, the manufacturers as well as the workmen of Canada, will do their part loyally and enthusiastically until victory has been achieved. I close, as I began, with Lord Kitchener's words: "Those who are engaged on the production of war material of any kind should not leave their work. It is to men who are not performing this duty that I appeal."

THE WHIG'S JUMBLE.

A General Review of Country District and Local News.

"Ice Cream Bricks," Gibson's. A man seldom exhibits his temper till he loses it.

"New Talcum Powders" at Gibson's. The cuddlesome winter girl dislikes the hot weather.

"New Talcum Powders" at Gibson's. Figures may not lie, but figures of speech are often misleading.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. Civilization is what compels the savage to work for his daily bread.

"Page and Shaw Sweets," Gibson's. If a man doesn't enjoy his work it's time for him to get another job.

"New Talcum Powders" at Gibson's. And the fight-wind who has more money than friends is glad of it.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. The majority of men are like clocks—either too fast or too slow.

"New Talcum Powders" at Gibson's. Did you ever get so lonesome that you wanted to howl like a dog?

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. Whether the game is worth the kerosene or not depends on what the game is.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. Most people are not on speaking terms with their own consciences half the time.

"Kodak Films" at Gibson's. The dachshund has very short legs, but his pants are just as long as those of any other dog.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. The body recovered on the coast of County Clare, Ireland, was not that of Albert Gwynne Vanderbilt.

"Page and Shaw Sweets," Gibson's. Dr. Bright, Exeter, has reached Athens to assume Dr. Hamilton's practice.

"New Talcum Powders" at Gibson's. In Paris, trouserettes are threatened in the latest fashion plates. The trouser effect is shown in 100 of 600 designs.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. At Fernie, B. C., the strike of the miners who refused to work with Germans and Austrians has been temporarily declared off.

"Vest Pocket Kodaks" at Gibson's. In some churches they pray for the widows and the orphans—but, as a rule, more wives are in need of prayers than widows.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. The portrait of many a distinguished man shows up in the newspapers—with full details of what cured him of his otherwise fatal ailments.

"Nelson's Ice Cream Bricks," Gibson's. Occasionally we meet a man who is proud of the fact that he never belonged to the uniform rank of a lodge and wore feathers and a tin sword.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. A girl doesn't always make a noise like a bellie when she dresses loyally. The wife of a man of few words usually has a monopoly of the vocabulary.

"Fresh Page and Shaw Sweets," Gibson's. At Jackson City, Ill., John Shando, arrested in connection with the murder of Edward Chapman, a retired farmer, was taken from the jail by a mob and lynched on Thursday.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. At Erie, Pa., on June 5th, Miss Hazel Pennock, Mrs. Me. and Mrs. William Pennock, Brockville, was united in marriage to Charles Masterson, formerly of St. Catharines.

The French Government took action Thursday for the purpose of increasing the output of war munitions. Expert workmen at the front will be brought back and sent to the factories, other men taking their places in the trenches.

"Page and Shaw Sweets" at Gibson's. The new set of high-class sweets" Gibson's Red Cross Drug Store. Page and Shaw Sweets and Huyler's sold there.

At Brockville on Thursday Miss Mary Emily Deahly Woodcock, youngest daughter of Rev. F. D. Woodcock and Mrs. Woodcock, was united in marriage to John Gray Hayward, B.Sc., youngest son of Mrs. P. D. Hayward, Berlin, Ont., formerly of Brockville.

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