

# REPORTS WASTE AND DELAY IN AIRPLANE OUTPUT

plane Company, H. E. Talbot, Sr., who received \$25,000, and E. Talbot, Jr., who received \$20,000. These men, assistants of Colonel Deeds, also received large salaries from other Dayton firms with which they were connected. "Even more extraordinary," said Mr. Hughes, "was the salary of \$50,000 a year paid by the Standard Aircraft Corporation, at Elmhurst and Plainfield, N. J., to its president, Harry B. Blingie, a New York lawyer, whose salaries, it was explained, are subject to reduction by the Government."

Labor conditions, Mr. Hughes said, "generally were unsatisfactory." He referred to the lack of stability of employees' forces, saying at the Packard plant, for instance, the labor turnover was between 400 and 600 per cent a year, "which would mean 40,000 to 60,000 men coming and going in order to maintain an organization of 10,000 to 15,000 men. Criticism also was aimed at the Wright-Martin Company for seeking draft deferment for many of its workers. The New York Times, N. J. plant, who had few qualifications for the work in which they were classed as experts. Conditions in this plant, however, are said to have improved lately.

**Tendency to Pad Payroll**  
Since the Government paid manufacturing costs, Mr. Hughes says, the tendency in many plants was to pad payrolls. "At the Curtiss plant near Buffalo," Mr. Hughes said, "there is abundant testimony with respect to this, showing that large numbers of employees were kept on the payroll when they were not needed, through an intricate system of overtime and women were paid when they did not work; employees were able to leave the factory without being detected and remain absent for hours while recorded on duty; employees would ring one another's time cards; men who were without work enough during the day to keep their jobs were employed overtime at increased rates; men were brought to the plant Sundays, when there was virtually nothing for them to do; and for many months there was such demoralization at this plant that it became the subject of contemptuous gossip among the employees in the community."

**Bought Unnecessary Plant**  
Referring to the Government's purchase in November, 1917, of the General Vehicle Company's plant at Long Island City, N. Y., to make engines, Mr. Hughes said "the actual necessity of the purchase . . . is not apparent."  
During the investigation, Attorney General Gregory reported a case of petty graft which was discovered in an office of the signal corps, and which he said was "tending to establish dishonest inspection on a rather small scale in one of the least important plants." A Grand Jury is investigating.

**Aliens in Ford Plant**  
Referring to reports of disloyalty among the employees of Henry Ford's factory at Detroit the report says: "The reports were numerous and the employee who obtained them testified that there were about 200 employees whose loyalty was seriously open to question, but how many of these were employed in Government work he could not say."

**Pooling of Patents**  
Discussing charges that through the pooling of aircraft patent rights in the Manufacturers' Aircraft Association, leading contractors hindered progress of the Government in the trade, Attorney General Gregory in his letter of transmittal said: "Whatever may be said of the charge that this arrangement tends to discourage future inventions, one of its results was to enable the Government, through contractors, to secure the use of all necessary patents at a fixed cost and with little friction. It was not entered into until the Attorney General had given an opinion that it did not conflict with the antitrust law. I find no basis for the suggestion that, in bringing it about, the members of the association were actuated by any unlawful or dishonest motive."

**High Salaries Paid Officials**  
Salaries paid officials of some airplane plants and charges to operating expenses, which were paid by the Government, were criticized by Mr. Hughes. He referred particularly to officers of the Dayton-Wright Air-

craft Corporation. The provisions of the criminal statutes do not reach inefficiency. "It is not within the province of this report to make recommendations with respect to administrative policy, but it should be said that the direction of Mr. Ryan and Mr. Potter there has been improvement in organization and progress has been made in gratifying measurements."  
**Prosecution Declared Necessary**  
"In the absence of proper appreciation of the obvious impropriety of transactions with Government officers and agents with firms or corporations in which they are interested, compels the conclusion that public policy demands that the statutory provisions bearing upon this matter should be strictly enforced. It is, therefore, recommended that the officers found to have had transactions on behalf of the Government with corporations in the preliminary stages of which they had an interest should be prosecuted under Section 41 of the criminal code."

**Federal Trade Commission**  
Should be requested to report upon the proper cost of mahogany for airplane propellers to the end that upon the receipt of such a report the propriety of further action with respect to the transactions of the Mahogany Manufacturers and Importers' Association may be determined. "It is recommended that the representatives of the Department of Justice should keep in touch with the progress of the work of the Federal Trade Commission in connection with the rights of the Government in final settlements of accounts, and that the Government has been advised of the necessity of such a report, and the absence of suitable factory supervision."

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**Tutta l'artiglieria nemica è stata catturata.**  
Roma, 31 ottobre.  
In risposta all'annuncio dell'Austria che essa era pronta ad evacuare il territorio italiano in Italia, è stato ufficialmente comunicato che l'offerta è giunta troppo tardi. Gli Italiani vogliono ricacciare con le armi gli austro-ungheresi dal suolo italiano, prima che un armistizio possa essere siglato.

**London, 31 ottobre.**  
Un dispaccio da Vienna annuncia che ad una deputazione austriaca è stato permesso di attraversare la linea di combattimento per un abboccamento con il comandante italiano. Un comunicato del Governo austriaco, emesso la scorsa notte, dice quanto appresso:

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