

they need take no instructions or advice from anybody except the heads of the department at Ottawa. If this were done I am sure he should have very much better administration. We would not require to employ so many men, nor would the minister require to spend as much money as he is now spending for these purposes. It is very difficult for one to tell whether all the doctors now employed at Halifax are necessary. I doubt very much if they are. If all these doctors are necessary, then I think the very best medical men available should be employed. I think the minister will agree with me in that respect. If the Militia Department at certain points in Canada must employ the services of doctors in connection with sick or returned soldiers they should employ only the leaders in the profession. I am not so sure that in Halifax it is necessary to employ doctors and pay them. I have an idea that if the medical profession in Halifax were asked to give their services to the military hospitals free of charge they would do so. That is the practice there, in so far as other hospitals are concerned, and I think is true of every city in Canada. Ordinarily medical men are willing to give their services free to hospitals, and I think that if the leaders of the medical profession in Nova Scotia were asked to give their services to the military hospitals they would do so, and would ask no remuneration. We ask men to go across and fight in France. We do not attempt to pay them at rates at all commensurate with the services rendered, and now we propose conscripting men. Why not conscript medical services and compel the doctors to give their services at nominal rates to the military hospitals? According to this return, I find that a number of recruiting officers in the Maritime Provinces are still employed. It seems to me altogether too many are employed for this purpose. I do not think they can do very much successful work at the present time and, therefore, I think the Minister might well ascertain if a number of them could not be eliminated. I observe that a number are employed as recruiting officers in Prince Edward Island. I think there are hardly any recruits being obtained these days in Prince Edward Island, and it looks as if these men were continued in their positions just because they obtained those positions when there was really some work to do. I notice on this list the name of an officer, Major Purney. I understand that he is doing re-

[Mr. A. K. Maclean.]

cruiting work in the New England States. Is that correct?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I think so; he is somewhere in the United States.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: He might as well go to any other country to search for recruits—not because no recruits are available in the New England States, but because he is not the right kind of man to send there to do that work.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Has he not been at the front?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Yes, but I say that he is not qualified for this particular work in the New England States. I have in mind a gentleman who has been in the service in Canada—he has never been overseas—a Nova Scotian by birth, who resided in the New England States for twenty or twenty-five years. He knows that country pretty nearly as well as any man living. He has from time to time offered his services to the department; he has informed me that he could get not many hundred, but several thousand recruits in the New England States—men who would rather join Canadian regiments than be drafted into the United States army. This gentleman, however, has been unable to get any satisfaction from the department. I have nothing against Major Purney, but he does not know the New England States; he has not the qualifications for recruiting work there. Even though a man has been overseas and has done good work there it does not follow that upon his return he should be given a military position in this country. I have no doubt that the list of men in Military Division No. 6 could be very considerably reduced. I hope the minister will not be satisfied with the report that he has recently received from the Maritime Provinces with respect to the number of men employed there.

I wish to bring to the attention of the minister also a matter in respect of which criticism is openly made by many people in Halifax, regardless of political considerations. I refer to the number of batmen who attend the officers there. I do not present this complaint through any personal knowledge of the matter, but a great many people in Halifax during the past two or three years have complained persistently about it. You see these batmen caring for officers' gardens, officers' horses, carriages and automobiles—having apparently little else to do. When people see a great number of men employed in this way, nat-