

of the cripples that he was asked to take on. It was pointed out, therefore, that these men were thorns in the flesh of the Tory party, and should be put out of the way. What happened? After the ex-Minister of Militia returned to Ottawa, Major McLean, Major Gillies and Colonel McRae were dismissed; and to-day they are degraded and disgraced. No explanation for their dismissal was given; they were simply told to quit. When things like this get abroad, the men say: what is the good of being attached to the 94th Highlanders? What is the good of giving our services? These three officers were attached to the battalion for twenty-five years. Simply because a Tory heeler, a local M.P.P. for Cape Breton county, went round with the minister and pointed them out, they were branded for death, and death was meted out to them. That, Sir, is the condition of things in my county; that is one of the reasons why I say that partisanship has been rampant in Canada since the war began. As to the time before the war I find no fault. I am a partisan myself, and if, in time of peace, party business is carried on decently along party lines, I have no objection. But in war times, when all persons should be treated fairly, patronage should have no part in the management of the affairs of the country, particularly those which have to do with the prosecution of the war.

I may be asked what further evidence I have. Men are appointed to positions from day to day; do you see any Grits appointed? Far be it from hon. gentlemen opposite to appoint a Grit, no matter what ability he may possess. A Fuel Controller has been appointed by the Department of Labour. With the gentleman who was appointed—a former member of this House—I have no fault to find; but he is a partisan of the deepest dye. I do not know where I could put my hand on a stronger partisan—that is, if I may judge from his conduct while he was in this House. We have a Food Controller. Is he a Grit? One would almost think that the Government would reason this way: we have appointed a Tory as a Fuel Controller; we will appoint a Liberal as Food Controller. That will please the Liberals, and show them that we desire to be fair. But that would never do. The Government went to Ontario and found this man Hanna. I suppose he is a good man, but he is a strong Tory. His partisanship and Toryism were brought to the attention of the country

during many months—perhaps not for good reasons; but he is known in the Maritime Provinces as a man whose zeal for party has sometimes got him into financial difficulty. These Tory officials go around the country with orders to call upon other Tories less influential, perhaps, than themselves, and with less sense of responsibility. Whatever is done is done through the agency of partyism, from start to finish. When there is a suggestion that a coalition Government be formed we are told that we should all come together and set aside party considerations. If that spirit is abroad, and if the members of the Government want to give any evidence of their good faith they should make some appointments along the lines that I have indicated. But they would be very sorry to do that, because they would then be departing from the principle to which they will adhere to the end. I do not know that it is worth my while giving further evidence of the baneful effect of partisanship upon recruiting. Although the ex-Minister of Militia has denied any such partisanship, the evidence is so profuse, prolific and overwhelming that we must accept it in preference to the denial of the ex-Minister of Militia.

On January 1, 1916, the Prime Minister made a proclamation that Canada would enrol 500,000 men. About that I have nothing to say; the action has already been criticised and fully debated. But when the Prime Minister made that proclamation he knew what the law was; he knew what the practice was; he knew by what means the people expected these 500,000 men to be recruited. And we have it on the authority of the ex-Minister of Militia that a few months afterwards, in March or April of the same year, a further proclamation went out to the Minister of Militia of that day telling him to let up on recruiting; not to put forth any further effort in that regard. If voluntary recruiting fell down, that was another hurdle that was thrown in its way by the leader of the Government himself. When the ex-Minister of Militia referred to this matter in the House yesterday I did not hear any murmur of complaint either from the Prime Minister or from any person sitting on the other side.

I have already put on Hansard some of the things that were said by the ex-Minister of Militia. So far we have heard no denial of these charges, some of which are very grave. He charges the Government and its officials with being under the influence of German gold.