

dreds of millions being added to the national debt in order that few more millionaires should be created, and the useless sacrifice of Canadian lives. This is part of the cost of Union Government. (Hear, hear.)

The elections of December, 1917, could not have been carried hut for the most colossal frauds ever perpetrated throughout the civilized world. I shall speak of some of the incidents in this notorious saturnalia of electoral debauchery which came under my personal observation overseas, and possibly about other infamies, which I am prepared to prove under oath to the satisfaction of any competent tribunal.

TRUSTING AN OFFICER'S HONOR.

Very early in the election campaign I interviewed Gen. Sir Richard Turner, V.C., at Argyle House, commander of the Canadian forces. He assured me that I should have, as representing Sir Wilfrid Laurier, every facility which the Government representative would have in the campaign, but he said that army discipline would not allow political meetings, nor the distribution of political literature, nor a political propaganda, except that the mails could be used. In answer to my special enquiry he assured me that there would be no interference in that branch of the army with communications to the soldiers. It was natural that I should accept the word of such a highly placed and honored Canadian officer.

PRUSSIAN POST OFFICE METHODS.

Subsequently I found Tory literature being distributed by commanding officers, shamefully misrepresenting the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier towards the war. I received a confidential letter from one of the staff officers at Argyle House informing me that this literature was being sent out direct from Headquarters to the camps. I came into the possession of a letter from Gen. Embury, one of the Tory political promotions, instructing the officers how the literature "should be distributed to the men and made available for their perusal." At the same time that this was being done, men who were distributing literature for us **outside the boundaries of the camps** were being arrested by Canadian military police. Do you wonder that my faith in the word of honor of certain Canadian officers of exalted rank is somewhat shattered? (Hear, hear.)

But that was not all. Subsequently I learned that thousands of letters which I had mailed to soldiers in England and France in the latter part of November and early in December had been held up in the Canadian Army Post Office in London until after the elections. In replying to Mr. Copp, M.P., when this charge was made at Ottawa, the Secretary of State, Hon. Mr. Burrell, waxed indignant that such a charge should be made against the honesty of the British Post Office system. He knows that all mail matter for Canadian soldiers goes from the British Post Office direct to the Canadian Branch for distribution, so that his assumed indignation is the rankest hypocrisy. Envelopes, through the death of the soldiers to whom they were addressed, came back to me long afterwards through the British Dead Letter Office, showing the date of mailing in London, and in every case also showing the date of the arrival of the letters at the Canadian base post offices long subsequent to the date of the elections. I have yet to come across an honest Canadian elector who justifies this flagrant violation of the regulations governing His Majesty's mails. (Applause.) Canadian officers guilty of this offence were found later on to have travelled much further down the road of moral turpitude.