

## MEMBER OF UNION GOVERNMENT AT-TACKS BORDEN ADMINISTRATION.

General Mewburn is reported to have stated at the Hamilton conference:

"I know of the abuses that have been going on whereby officers and men have been allowed to remain in Canada for months and years."

"I received a very bad legacy when I took over the Department of Militia and Defence."

"New Brunswick was the worst Province from this standpoint, and now it has been created into a new military district. Previously thirty-two officers held positions there and had not been overseas. Now six returned men are in charge of the district and the others have been discharged."

"I might mention a case of two Western battalions which were brought to an Eastern point. I found in one of these battalions twenty-two officers, thirty-two bandsmen, sixteen Corporals and 110 men. I at once, on learning this, amalgamated the two battalions and discharged thirty-four officers."

"This was no fault of the officers, but of the rotten system."

"Within a few days I had more than 100 letters from Cabinet Ministers, members of both sides of Parliament and other people protesting. My answer was that the Canadian militia was no charitable institution."

These bold remarks of Canada's Minister of Militia have caused considerable comment. The Hon. Mr. Rowell has issued a statement in defence of General Mewburn, stating that the criticism of the Militia Department referred to a date prior to the time Sir Edward Kemp took charge of the Department, obviously when Sir Sam Hughes was in control.

Is Mr. Rowell playing with the intelligence of the people of Canada or is he sincere? Sir Sam has been out of the Department exactly a year. Surely these two Western Battalions have not been in this position all this time. A whole year, one battalion with 110 men, 16 corporals, 32 Bandsmen and 22 officers. That is what Mr. Rowell says, and he is now undertaking to defend it.

### WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE SAYING.

#### In Saskatchewan:

The general impression throughout the country seems to be that the electors in the Province of Saskatchewan are strongly in favour of Union Government. Within the last forty-eight hours this has been proven absolutely contrary to the facts. The difficulty in the Province of Saskatchewan is that the political organization of that Province has been chloroformed by some of the Members of the so-called Union Government. The electors, however, cannot be suppressed and they are strong in their denunciations of the present Borden Government and are thoroughly aroused to the fact that unless they immediately exert themselves there is no hope of having the lower tariff policy of the West adopted for several years. Here is what the people are saying:

#### From the Federal constituency of Prince Albert:

"The majority of the farmers in this district favor

the straight Liberal Win-the-War Candidate."

"Feeling strong against Borden Government in this Province. If straight Liberal candidate put into every constituency would have a good chance to winning."

#### From Qu'Appelle:

"I am not in favor of the present Union Government. Farmers generally are divided."

#### From Humboldt constituency:

"In this district farmers emphatically against allowing Borden candidates to be returned unopposed. Very strong feeling exists here that straight Liberal candidate should be nominated."

#### From Saltcoats constituency:

"A large majority of the farmers here opposed to the Union Government. A straight Liberal candidate would carry four-fifths of the vote."

#### From Kindersley constituency:

"A large number of the farmers are opposed to the Borden Government and are not in favor of accepting Tory Unionist candidates."

#### From Weyburn constituency:

"The farmers in Saskatchewan and the Liberals generally feel that a pure Prussian deal has been put over. Our suggestion is that a straight Laurier candidate be put into every constituency in the West."

"Farmers are by no means unanimously in support of Union Government under Borden. We are calling convention of Liberals to select straight Liberal candidate."

"Election by acclamation not satisfactory to the farmers. Liberal candidate should be run in every constituency and I believe could be elected."

#### From Assiniboine constituency:

"Farmers are not unanimous in favour of Unionist candidate. Strong committee should be appointed to tour the Province to appoint Liberal or grain grower candidate. Committee should have assurance that grievance of the West should be remedied. No reason why Saskatchewan should not return straight Liberal."

"We do not want Borden Government candidates elected by acclamation. Ninety per cent of our people for Laurier."

#### North Battleford constituency:

"The farmers of this district are not unanimous that Borden Government candidates be elected by acclamation."

"Northern country people strong for a straight Liberal candidate. Borden Government has no chance of being returned, if candidate put in."

#### From Swift Current constituency:

"No Borden Government candidate will be elected by acclamation. A straight Liberal candidate should be put up in every constituency."

#### From Maple Creek constituency:

"Farmers are not in favor of Borden Government. Liberal convention to be held when I think the straight Liberal will be nominated."

"Farmers by no means unanimous for Borden Government. We must not have election by acclamation."