

summoned enough courage to answer the call and jump into the trenches.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to tell you that I have my doubts as to the genuineness of this message and I cannot satisfy myself that the situation is as desperate as it has been represented. Can we suppose for one single moment, that the imperial authorities would be willing that such a great number of their own people should continue to live in peace and content while the soldiers from their colonies are dying for them? Is it possible that our parade officers who are in England since the beginning of the war, whom we are paying and maintaining to strut about in the streets of London have not been apprised of the situation and prefer to come back here, rather than go to the assistance of their brothers in arms that are calling for help? Lastly, Mr. Speaker, is it possible that our own officers in Canada, who look so proud wearing the King's uniform, who never went further than London and some of them no further than Ottawa, and who are receiving fat salaries, will not feel themselves in honour bound to go and help the boys whom part of them accompanied as far as England, and whom all of them have encouraged to enlist?

Again, Mr. Speaker, I say that I do not admit that the situation is so desperate as it has been represented, because were it so I could not find words bitter enough to characterize the conduct of those who, having the opportunity refuse to go to the front.

We have contributed over 300,000 men, we have spent our money so lavishly that we will have to impose a tax on real estate to meet the interest on our loans; yet our imperialists are not satisfied.

Because our Prime Minister, without taking advice from any one, without taking into consideration the needs of the country, has been pleased to offer 500,000 men, are we bound to make good the offer? I, for one, say no.

If I had other sons wishing to enlist I should fasten them to their post as securely as the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sevigny) who intended organizing a regiment but did nothing of the kind.

For more than a year we heard a great deal about the immense strength and number of the British army. If it is as formidable as it is represented, it is high time that the fact be demonstrated. It is up to it to show its mettle and relieve the colonial forces which since the inception of the war have constantly been under fire and

[Mr. Marcile.]

very often have been left alone to fight and win the battle.

Are we to think that our soldiers and those of the other colonies are the only ones brave enough to face the danger of a battle in close formation? For, since war began, whether in Flanders, France or elsewhere, all the victories reported have been won by the colonial troops. It is about time, Mr. Speaker, that those valiant boys take a rest, and that the five million men, enlisted in England, do their share.

I have listened most calmly to the lecture given, last week, by the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue and I sat wondering whether, really, he was speaking his own mind or if he was not expressing what he had been told to say. He complained of certain newspapers which criticised our participation in the war, and of certain orators of the province of Quebec who claim we owe nothing to England. Where did that idea originate? Who preached it from the hustings in the province of Quebec? Who did, if not the hon. minister himself and all his friends during the electoral campaign of Drummond-Arthabaska, in 1910, and throughout the electoral campaign in 1911? Is it at all surprising that those who fought side by side with the hon. minister, still remember those statements and keep on repeating them? The hon. member for North York (Mr. Armstrong) complained the other day that Tancrede Marsil, of Montreal, was advocating rebellion and stating that we owed nothing to England. Mr. Tancrede Marsil was once a political friend of the hon. member for North York; he had the administration of the patronage under the present Government, from 1911 until the election in Hochelaga, where he intended to run against the ex-Secretary of State (Mr. Patenaude). Up to that date, Mr. Marsil had been a devoted friend of the present Government and it was only because he opposed the hon. Secretary of State that they took away from him the patronage of Bagot county, where he had been a candidate in 1911.

The hon. Minister of Inland Revenue, the ex-Postmaster General, now Hon. Judge L. P. Pelletier, the ex-Minister of Inland Revenue, now Railway Commissioner, and others, have sown the wind throughout the province of Quebec in 1910-11; there is nothing surprising if, to-day, we reap the tempest. Indeed, all the elements bode an approaching storm, especially if the Government persist in spreading among the people discontent and scorn, by forcing upon