

### **EQUIPMENT.**

The first activity of the League was directed towards the inadequate supply of equipment. On July 12th, the Merchants' Committee discussed the matter in its relation to recruiting. The Executive debated it next day, and from that date until the scandal was removed, the League did not cease to importune the authorities at Ottawa to recognize the principle of equipping a recruit as soon as he joined. No greater deterrent to enlistment was ever encountered than the lack of clothing and arms. Nothing did more to quench the flame of patriotism that spread over the country in the autumn of 1915 than the inability of the Militia Department to keep pace with the growth of enlistment. It may be that the re-action of a later day may be traced to this discouragement at the beginning.

Voluntary enlistment had been in existence for a year when the League became a driving force; yet it seemed that very little effort had been made to cope with the problem of equipment. The requests of the Merchants' Committee and the Executive proving futile, they were superseded by complaints which grew almost into threats. Persistent efforts were made to arouse the seeming apathy at Ottawa. Letters, telegrams and deputations were sent so frequently and to such exalted personages (even the sanctity of the Premier was not respected) that the League became anathema (so it is said) to the distressed and harried officials concerned.

The spectacle of ill-clad, slip-shod recruits marching through the streets was shocking. The military ardour of these patriotic youths deserved and needed all the stimulus and glamour which could be provided. Soldierly pride was outraged.

Thanks to the unwearying efforts of R. L. Smith, W. S. Connolly, G. C. Coppley, H. C. Beckett and others, the wheels of production were at last made to whirl more rapidly, and the trouble ceased.

### **DENTISTRY.**

For some time it was the custom of recruiting officers to reject men with unsound teeth. These men were unable to pay the dentist the sum required to rectify the defects and were lost to the army. Col. G. Fearman first brought the matter to the notice of the League, and the matter was handed over to the Public Meetings Committee. Through