

stated, no further effort to have the term extended would be made, but an election would be held in due course. After Dr. Leblanc enlisted for overseas service and attained the rank of captain at a salary of \$1,916, certainly it would be necessary for him to go overseas in order to perform the duties assigned to him. He has not gone over. It is well known, it is common gossip among his friends, that he received a telegram from Ottawa not to go overseas because his services would be required in the coming election. That is not an isolated case; the country is full of political military officers who are drawing large pay and who are kept upon the ground in order that their services may be available when the election comes. The same condition of affairs prevailed in Nova Scotia in 1916 when the provincial election was on. Several military officers were given commissions and at the same time given nominations as Conservative candidates. These men, instead of going overseas or remaining in training for the work to which they were to be assigned, became candidates on behalf of the Conservative party and, while officers and drawing pay, they devoted their time to political work. It is also well known that at certain polls, where military officers were Conservative candidates, electors who have enlisted as privates received telegrams from the commanding officers telling them that they must vote for these particular officers. We are going to have an election in a short time, and there is every indication that the whole machinery of the Militia Department, so far as Nova Scotia is concerned, is to be employed, not to win the war, but to win the election for the Government. I am not making too strong a statement when I say that. I say that the facts connected with the appointment of Captain B. A. LeBlanc, member for the county of Richmond, and the instructions he received not to go overseas after he got on board ship, are proof positive that his services are to be enlisted for political purposes, instead of for the relief of the sick soldiers at the front. He never did any work. While he was a member of the legislature he obtained his commission and uniform, and since then he has been under pay, and his name appears in this return at the salary of \$1,916.

Mr. PROULX: Is he receiving his pay now?

Mr. KYTE: Yes, and if I can judge from the past, he will continue to draw his pay

while acting for the Conservative party in the constituency of Richmond.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I was very much surprised at seeing the very large amount of money necessary for the upkeep of the military establishment of Military District No. 6. A layman cannot very well criticise that return, not having the necessary military knowledge. But when you realize that it means \$400,000 for the administration of Military District No. 6, I submit that it becomes quite a serious question, and, as the member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) has suggested, that probably does not include, by any means, the entire cost of administration of that district. When hon. gentlemen on this side of the House suggest that many of these appointments are unnecessary and political, the minister may say that we have no evidence. To a large extent that may be true, but I think the burden is upon the Department of Militia and Defence to satisfy the country that there is any necessity for such an expensive military establishment in the Maritime Provinces. I tell the minister now that, if he would make an honest effort to remove politics from the administration of that military district, he would at once get rid of a large number of men. It is a fact that in the city of Halifax many civilians have more to do with the running of some military matters than the officers who are supposed to do the work. The officers in charge of the military hospitals in that city are not being treated properly by the department, because the department permits the local politicians to interfere with their work. I desire to ask the minister to remember my remarks particularly in connection with military hospital matters, and to make some investigation. I would like him to make sure that the officers in charge of the hospitals are really and truly in command. They are being interfered with daily by politicians; they are doing things every day which they do not want to do. They are employing help frequently for which they have no need, but they are obliged to do it, owing to the demands made by local politicians.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Does the hon. gentleman refer to the hospitals under the Military Hospitals Commission?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No, I refer to the Militia and Defence hospitals. The minister should instruct his officers that they are supreme in their positions, and that