

will not get anything out of it? No, my information is that one of the biggest banking institutions in Canada was employed to float the last Government loan and that it received a very handsome commission for doing it. The Minister of Finance did not ask this big bank to work for nothing but he thinks this young man, working in a munition factory and earning \$10 or \$12 a day, is a slacker, that he is not a patriot, if he does not drop his job, go to the front at \$1.10 a day and sleep in the trenches and sometime not sleep at all.

When this war broke out the Minister of Militia called to the service a gentleman from Toronto—I think one of the Ellis Brothers—to assist him in buying binoculars. Giving evidence before the Public Accounts Committee, this gentleman said he had done the work entirely for patriotic purposes, that nothing would have induced him to leave his shop and come down here to superintend the buying of binoculars but pure patriotism. But, when we got the evidence we found that he had received 10 per cent on everything he bought or that was bought. Not only that, but he allowed his friends to buy binoculars here, there and everywhere, some were bought for as low as \$9.75, some for \$24 and \$25, but by the time these binoculars reached the Government they cost \$57. That is patriotism. That is the kind of patriotism that this Government and their friends appear to think is all right. For my part I do not.

I was going to enumerate a lot of the sins of commission and omission of this Government, but I do not think it is necessary. My hon. friend from Kings, P.E.I. (Mr. Hughes) described all these matters last night; they are fresh in the memory of every one in this House, and if they read Hansard they will find an array of offences committed that I think would to some extent establish the fact that this Government has not handled the business of this country economically, wisely, honestly, free from all kinds of graft and crookedness, or in such a manner that the people would have confidence in it.

I said at the outset that this war is the nation's war, and that it must be won at whatever cost if possible. I also said that one of the essentials was men, another was money, but that the third and most important essential was judgment and good management. I do not think that any business men in this country would put the amount of money or the number of men that are called for in the carrying on of this war or in carrying on the affairs of this country

[Mr. McCrea.]

into the hands of men who are scrapping amongst themselves, who have no respect for one another, and who have been accusing one another of being crooks and grafters. The situation reminds me of what Robert Burns said when two ministers fell out, were quarrelling over their congregations, and were blackguarding each other, the congregation clapped their hands and said: "Neither is lying." That also brings to my mind the words of one of those old Presbyterian ministers who were always supposed to be very solemn and very earnest. He was preaching to his congregation one day when a matter of great political importance was engaging the attention of his congregation and the public generally. He said, "An honest man is the noblest work of God, but, politically speaking, I do not think He has made one for the last fifty years." I think that applies to the situation to-day.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That takes in the last Administration.

Mr. McCREA: What is that?

Mr. NICKLE: That takes in the last Administration.

Mr. McCREA: The question of recruiting, in Quebec especially, has been pretty fully dealt with by other speakers, and, therefore, I do not propose to take up the time of the House by a reference to it. It has been stated here—and I think with reason—that no honest effort has been made in that province to recruit. It would look to me rather that it was the intention of the Government, or at least the idea of the men engaged in that part of the Government's business, that they would rather have a chance to say to the people of Quebec that they were slackers and were not doing their duty. I think it has been said in this House that Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not take the part in recruiting that he should have taken. I think the hon. gentleman from Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier could go down to Quebec and come back with fifty or sixty members supporting him in this House. That may be so in politics. Sir Wilfrid is getting old. He is a statesman, and not a military man. When he goes down to Quebec and appeals to the people for their support, he appeals to them as their leader. He says, "Vote for me, follow me, and I will bring you to success." As a politician he says, "Come, vote for me; follow me, I will be your leader in the election, and in the House when the election is over." But