

the work of censorship requires men of special qualifications; men of sufficient education, who can be thoroughly trusted.

Mr. KYTE: The men who now occupy these positions had no experience when they were appointed. In fact, on account of the character of the appointments, we were of the opinion that no particular qualifications were required. Any sort of business derelict who was of the proper party stripe was picked off the street and given one of these positions, without reference to qualifications. There are scores of returned soldiers in the constituency of South Cape Breton, who, to say the least, have qualifications equal to those of the men who are now on the staff, and whose names were given to me by the minister this afternoon. In view of the fact that there are on the staff young men between the ages of 24 and 29 years, without dependents, who received appointments by reason of political pull, the minister should not wait until vacancies occur; he should create vacancies by dismissing these men and appointing returned soldiers in their places. We require men at the front; let these men be relieved of their duties and let them enlist for overseas service and do their bit as these returned soldiers have done. When they come back they will then be in line for appointment and promotion by this Government.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I suppose the Military Service Bill will reach these men?

Mr. KYTE: I am afraid that the Military Service Bill will not reach some of the men if their services are required at home during the next election.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I would not say that.

Mr. MACDONALD: The minister should not overlook the assertion of the member for Richmond (Mr. Kyte) that a man who was performing the duties of censor at the place mentioned was dismissed because he would not give a subscription to the man who had the patronage. The minister may lay down the rule that nobody may serve the country in war time and receive remuneration unless he is recommended by the man who has charge of the patronage, but neither he nor any other minister can justify the action of the person who has charge of the patronage in demanding money from a person who is employed by the Government. The minister would be taking a very peculiar position if he assumed responsibility for action of this kind without investigating the matter.

[Sir Edward Kemp.]

Mr. KYTE: Some time ago there was an agitation among the censors down there for an increase of pay. The ubiquitous patronage dispenser was Johnny-on-the-spot again. He said: for a certain sum of money I will go to Ottawa, and I will see that your salaries are increased. The story is that he came to Ottawa and upon his return he presented a bill for some \$350. One of the censors refused to contribute to this amount, and was accordingly dismissed from the service. If the minister would like further information on that subject, I will give him, in confidence, the name of this young man, in order that he may satisfy himself with regard to the matter. The thing has become so scandalous that it has practically killed recruiting in that part of the country. If during the last year recruiting has not been as successful as it has been before, those are some of the reasons. In the face of those conditions, is it to be wondered at that men will not enlist for overseas services when they find that the money voted by Parliament to provide them with the equipment necessary for the positions which they occupy overseas is being frittered away by patronage dispensers, and that practically everything is sold to the man who pays the most for the position he is seeking at the hands of the Government?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I shall be glad if the hon. member will give me the name confidentially. I will treat it in the same way as he gives it to me.

Mr. MACDONALD: As has been frequently stated during the past three or four years, the ministers of this Government have been in the habit of disposing of matters of this kind in a casual way. The idea of trafficking in money for supplies in war time is incredible. I cannot conceive of any one at this time putting up with that kind of thing, and in view of the statement made by a responsible member of Parliament, the minister should immediately institute a thorough investigation into the whole matter and should assume the responsibility of dealing with such a case. It is all very well for hon. members opposite to appropriate all the patronage and place these matters on the lowest possible level, while speaking about idealism and appealing to the highest possible motives; but when a party undertakes to insist upon getting money from a public servant, and when, on his refusal, that man is dismissed, then the depth of infamy is reached, and the minister cannot by any casual