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CONSERVATIVES THANK LIBERALS.

THERE was a notable departure from the generally accepted rules of Conservative party meetings when the Lincoln County Conservative Association, in annual meeting at St. Catherines, Ont., on March 6th, passed a resolution in which, as reported by the Toronto World (Conservative) "the War appropriation passed by the Dominion Government was endorsed and **tribute was paid to the loyal support of the opposition.**" This fair-minded and generous recognition of the loyal co-operation of the Liberal party under the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not at all suit Mr. J. D. Chaplin, the Conservative candidate nominated last autumn. After the resolution had been unanimously adopted, he protested against the convention paying any tribute to the loyalty of Liberals, whether in or out of the House of Commons, and demanded that the compliment to the Liberals be expunged from the resolution. To the credit of the convention it is recorded that the mover of the resolution flatly refused to consent to the change and one delegate who supported Mr. Chaplin in his request was literally "howled down."

DO TORIES RECOGNIZE A TRUCE?

HON. A. E. KEMP, Conservative member for Toronto East and a member of Sir Robert Borden's cabinet, speaking at a banquet of the Albany Club, Toronto, on March 6, made a statement regarding the party truce. The following quotation is from the Toronto *Telegram* (Conservative):

"I want to say that there is no truce between the Liberal-Conservative party and any other party, and never has been. There may have been a truce on some trivial matters," Mr. Kemp went on, "but on the big issues we are prepared for war. We are proud of our principles. Why shouldn't both parties get out and discuss their policies?"

PRICE OF FIELD DRESSINGS.

EXHORBITANT prices actually paid by the Government for medical field dressings for Canadian soldiers wounded on the field of battle have been revealed in the return from the Auditor General of Canada, referred to in another column as having been tabled in the House on February 25th. Shortly, the facts are that a young man, E. Powell, an apprentice employed in an Ottawa drug store in which Mr. W. F. Garland, the Conservative member for Carleton County admits he has a large interest, was recommended to the Militia Department by Mr. Garland, after Mr. Garland had arranged that Powell be appointed Ottawa agent for a Chicago drug house that makes a specialty of military field dressings.

Mr. Garland Said Price was Right.

Powell was given large orders and the records furnished show that he was paid about \$18,000 for these dressings, in spite of the fact that his prices were questioned by Mr. H. W. Brown, director-general of military contracts. A statement prepared by Mr. Brown and forwarded to the Auditor-General shows that he was given to understand by a representative of the Chicago drug firm, who came from Chicago from the purpose, that the price of the dressings would be about 18 cents each. Powell was given the order without a specific price being stated, and billed the department at 23 cents per dressing. This Mr. Brown refused to certify, and after some further communication, Powell reduced the price to 21 cents, which Mr. Brown still considered exorbitant and still refused to certify. Then Mr. Garland, the Conservative M.P., called upon Mr. Brown and assured him "emphatically" that the price of 21 cents asked by Powell allowed a profit of only 5 per cent on the cost of the dressings.

Profit was over 40 per cent.

The accounts were certified at the rate of 21 cents. Later, presumably, Mr. Brown discovered that the price of 21 cents, far from allowing a profit of 5 per cent on the Chicago prices, as Mr. Garland declared, actually gave Powell a profit figured by Mr. Brown at about 40 per cent. It was not a 5 per cent profit, but a profit of 5 cents per dressing. Mr. Brown thereupon demanded from Powell a refund of \$2,822, which he claimed to be the overcharge. So far as is known, the refund has never been paid. After the matter became public, Powell was interviewed and was quoted in several papers as having declared that he would not give up the money without a fight. In his report, the Auditor-General says:

"I find that these goods could have been purchased for 40 to 60 per cent less from the regular wholesale trade, and think that an order amounting to over \$18,000 should not be paid for at retail prices." The following are some comparisons of prices paid by Powell and the prices he charged the Militia Department:

	Prices paid by Powell	Prices paid by Dept.
Lint compound.....	5 ½c. doz.	10c
Wool cotton absorb.....	5 ½c. doz.	10c
Gauze absorbent.....	\$1 per doz.	\$1.80
Ligatures.....	18c pkt.	30c
Bandages.....	\$8 gross.	\$12.00
Bandages, white flannel	\$4.40 gross.	\$8.00
Plaster of Paris.....	\$2.50 doz. pkts.	\$4.00