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Blaming Valcartier

The Toronto Telegram, anxious to shield the Borden Government as much as possible, has hit upon the ingenious argument that "Valcartier camp is responsible for most of the troubles the war has brought upon Sir Robert Borden." In its issue of March 17, the Telegram says:

"Valcartier was a sink hole for this country's money. Valcartier was the scene of absolutely wasted weeks in the lives of this country's soldiers. Valcartier was the principal reason why the equipment of the soldiers with clothing and boots, especially boots, was a rush job. The soldiers had to be equipped so that they could leave Valcartier before the weather became too cold. Consequently the Militia Department had no ability and the manufacturers had no time."

The first disposition was to put all the blame on the makers of the shoes. What blame there was on the part of particular manufacturers has come out in the evidence given before the committee of inquiry ordered by Parliament. But this excuse has had the bad effect of advertising to the world the wrong and injurious statement that our manufacturers cannot make good shoes. Everybody knows they can. Everybody knows they do it all the year round. Everybody knows they use exactly the same perfected machinery that is used all over the continent and in Europe.

The manufacturers made the shoes that were ordered. If the wrong sort were ordered, the fault lay with the Government. And that is where the fault did lie. They waited three weeks, during which they might have called together men in the shoe trade who