

NATIONAL SERVICE.

THE Premier of Canada has issued a call to the manhood of Canada which has caused us furiously to think, and in our processes of thought we have reviewed the course of himself and his government since this awful War broke out.

No one, we think, will dispute the statement that the outbreak of war brought about an unparalleled and unprecedented crisis in Canada which called for unanimity of action and thought on the part of the whole people. It was, and is, a crisis the proper treatment of which was, and is, above and beyond politics, and demands the exercise of the best brains of the country, acting in unison and harmony for the good of the common cause. What happened? Parliament met within a few days after the bloody torch had been lighted. The Borden government presented its measures for aiding the fighting forces of the Empire, and the Liberal Opposition, forgetting party politics, willingly and cheerfully acquiesced. The Opposition had reason to hope that the Government would likewise forget Party and remember only the common weal. Gradually, however, the inner workings of the Administration came to light and revealed the fact that in the conduct of the War the public interests had been sacrificed to the interests and greed of their friends.

Huge War Expenditures Exploited for Party Purposes

Think of it seriously for a moment. The vital interests of the whole country were at stake, and the citizens of all classes and politics were called upon to make, and willingly made, sacrifices of life, health and wealth, yet the political party which happened to be in office at the time was not big enough to appreciate the fearful gravity of the situation, and insisted upon playing the game of party politics with the huge war expenditures. We assert it gravely and deliberately that the Tory Party with Sir Robert Borden at its head have utilized the war expenditures ostensibly and purposely for the advancement of their party interests. The evidence of this is overwhelming. It is to be seen in almost every branch of the Military Service, in the purchase of supplies, in promotions and in the granting of favors. Providing the general results were good, one could almost overlook many of these flagrant abuses, but what do we find? Viewed from any angle you like the Administration of the Militia Department has been characterized by extravagance, by inefficiency, favoritism and what is worse, by graft. On top of that the people have had to suffer, almost daily, the grotesque exhibitions of childish vanity and bluster of that impossible personage, the Minister of Militia. Surely never in the history of civilization was a country so humiliated as Canada has been through the conduct of its Militia Department.

Evidences of Graft and Maladministration

Lest you might be inclined to think that the foregoing statements are somewhat ex-

aggerated please recall to memory the evidence given before the Parliamentary Committee as to rotten boots supplied to the Canadian soldiers, and the testimony given before similar Committees, and the Davidson Commission regarding graft in the purchase of horses, bandages, binoculars, medicines, oats, bicycles, motor trucks, etc., and also in the sale of alleged defective ammunition.

Bear in mind too the Meredith-Duff Commission which established a rake-off of \$1,000,000, out of a \$6,000,000 contract granted at absurdly high prices, and the taking of a commission of over \$200,000 by the "guide, counsellor and friend" of Sir Sam Hughes.

Think also of the charges made, the truth of which cannot, and has not been denied, that through the operations of the incompetent Tory Shell Committee, prices were paid for munitions for the British Government which were nothing short of robbery—a robbery of the British Treasury to the tune of no less than \$100,000,000.

Remember too how the Minister of Militia spent millions on the Ross Rifle, and metaphorically speaking, rammed it down the throat of everybody, notwithstanding the strongest evidence that it was useless for trench warfare and was, therefore, a serious menace to the lives of our soldiers, and that the rifle was finally discarded by the British authorities, who, if well authenticated rumour be true, declared that it was nothing short of a criminal outrage to put such a weapon in the hands of the Canadian soldiers.

Think too of the useless patent shield shovel, the brilliant idea of Sir Sam's lady stenographer which cost the country nearly \$40,000, and which was discarded.

Then there is the matter of the Eaton Machine Gun Battery, purchased by the Government, and towards which they contributed over \$400,000—a battery which is absolutely useless and lies "somewhere in England," not in France, wrapped in its tarpaulins.

Consider also the recently made report of Dr. Bruce regarding the administration of the Canadian Medical Service. A more damning and formidable indictment was never made of a governing body in Canada. Elsewhere in this issue we quote pertinent paragraphs of this Bruce report which are grave enough to draw tears from ones eyes.

Throughout all this the Liberal Party and its Leader were ignored and their assistance spurned.

Record of the Borden Government Regarding Recruiting

Adverting to recruiting. What has been the record? No effort was required as respects the marshalling of the First Contingent. The men simply flew to the colors. Eighty per cent of them were Old Country men, many of whom were British Army reservists, to whom the call of the blood was supreme. After that, and for a long time, no special effort was necessary to get recruits. The