

paid a tribute to the manner in which the national registration had been carried out. I remember, however, that in June I pressed the Prime Minister on two different occasions to state whether or not there would be a registration before any young men were called up. It was only after this matter had been pressed quite strongly that we were able to get the information that there would be a national registration before any young men were called up under the Mobilization Act.

I say again to the government: Let us have the plain facts. How many divisions is it intended to raise in Canada? What does the government intend to do about altering the present set-up of the training centres? Why not tell the exact truth about the production of war materials? We should be told why we have not the machine guns, rifles, ammunition and the dozen other essential commodities necessary for the training of a 1940 army. If an offensive starts in Europe and our casualties are heavy, have the necessary precautions been taken to supply the first division with trained reinforcements? Every man who has been connected with the militia knows that for each man in the front line there must be five to seven men back to the recruiting office in order to keep him there.

I do not expect miracles to happen in connection with the training of men or the production of equipment. In the short time since I have been adjutant of my unit I have come to realize the many difficulties that beset the officers in forming and looking after a unit of only 900 men. At the same time we must remember that to-day we are in the fifteenth month of the war, and surely at this date there should be a sufficient supply of the essential war materials. Perhaps the Minister of National Defence will tell us when he speaks just how many Bren guns are being manufactured to-day and how many have been manufactured to date. This government, and this government alone, must assume responsibility for the present state of equipment of our armed forces. In England Mr. Churchill frankly tells the nation what is being done. He does not paint glowing pictures. Only a short time ago in a speech he offered the British people tears and sweat and dark hours, but here in Canada this government has seen fit to attach to many of the departments highly paid propaganda writers who colour the news and release only comments and opinions which are favourable to the government, so that anyone reading their reports in the press is led to believe that we are making marvellous progress, that there is nothing to fear, that Canada is going in high gear. All I ask the government to do is

to present the true picture, to tell us exactly where we stand in the matter of production to-day.

At the very time our non-permanent active militia units were called up in June of this year, conditions looked very black in Europe. Up to that time there had been no shortage of recruits for the Canadian active service force. In fact a young man who wished to enlist in the Canadian active service force in my county or in this province had to search about for a place where recruiting was going on for the Canadian active service force. Whatever influenced the government to call up the non-permanent active militia units for only thirty days' training a year is known only to themselves. In a very short time, in record time in fact, those units were all over-strength, and recruiting for them stopped on August 15. Yet at the date those units were called up there was no clothing of any kind available for them. There were no rifles, no machine guns or other articles of equipment necessary for infantry rifle battalions. Everyone must realize that you cannot enlist men and keep them doing squad drill forever. It was over two months before the first uniforms were issued to my unit. The issue consisted of a cap, a blouse tunic, a pair of trousers, a shirt, a belt and a pair of boots. This clothing was issued two days before the unit left to train at Petawawa camp. Despite many articles that have appeared in the press from time to time as to the enormous quantities of clothing being turned out, this government was unable to issue more than one shirt to each man. The men had no socks and they have not yet received any socks. They received no underwear. They did not have a greatcoat or a cardigan jacket or a sweater of any kind. As for personal articles they received none at all. What a contrast is the list of issue used in all the non-permanent active militia units and the list of equipment actually supplied at the training camp.

Before going to camp one company of two hundred men of my battalion had no socks and they were unable to obtain them from the government. So I myself wrote to the Red Cross and asked for two hundred pairs of socks, and the Red Cross replied as they always do, "Certainly you can have them." Anyone who has trained at Petawawa camp knows that it becomes very cold there at night; yet these men were sent there without overcoats, and without sweaters, just in summer uniforms, and there was not a single place in that camp where there was a fire. If a man got his feet wet, or his clothing was damp, there was no place where he could go to dry himself and his clothing. In my opinion