

knows it; men who have managed in some way to work themselves into the army, men who draw down pay and whose wives draw down separation allowance, but who render no service and never intend to; and who, when their unit goes overseas, always manage to get transferred to another unit. I can tell of some men who have been transferred three times, and then, when they could not put off going overseas any longer, they got into the Forestry Battalion. And so it goes. There is work to be done in this country; I have always believed that the present minister had the business ability to do it, and I am pointing out some of the conditions that exist in my part of the country. I hope he will apply his business principles to these matters and see if he cannot clean up some of these conditions that are disgracing the country in army matters in that part of Canada.

Mr. KYTE: I desire to read an editorial from the Quebec Chronicle, a newspaper owned and edited until the outbreak of the war, by General Watson who has been at the front for some time. This newspaper is strongly in sympathy with the present Administration:

A shameful thing.

An unusually large number of officers returned from England to Quebec yesterday. While some of them were casualties, there is no doubt that very many of them were men who would not revert or sacrifice a grade in rank in order to go to the front. Quite a few of them have been kept in England for many months at Government expense. In fact, we believe that the cost of paying officers that never intended to go to the front has been appalling and we are convinced that the matter should be aired in Parliament at an early date. These are the first men that conscription should reach out and gather in.

That editorial is written with knowledge on the part of the person who wrote it. If such comments appeared in newspapers unfriendly to the Government, they might be passed over without any remark; but when a newspaper of the standing and of the well-known sympathy with the Government of the Quebec Chronicle makes a statement of that kind, it gives great cause to the people of this country to look well into militia matters as they are being carried on by the present Administration. This editorial contains a charge which it is necessary for the minister to refute at the earliest possible moment, by giving actual figures as to the number of officers enlisted in Canada since the war broke out for overseas service and who have been kept in England under large pay and living allowance up to the present time, but who

[Mr. Carvell.]

absolutely refuse to go to the continent because they are not willing to revert to a lower rank.

Referring to the headquarters staff at Halifax, the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) has spoken of the large number of medical men in the city of Halifax who are drawing large salaries and apparently not giving very much time to the work for which they were appointed. There are medical men in Halifax who attend to their general practice day by day, at the same time drawing large sums in salaries which might be saved to this country if there was a desire on the part of the Minister of Militia and Defence to economize in respect to that expenditure. Some weeks ago I was asked the following question to which the Minister of Militia replied:

DR. B. A. LEBLANC.

Mr. Kyte:

1. What is the amount of pay and allowance and monthly separation allowance paid to Dr. B. A. Leblanc, Arichat, Richmond County, Nova Scotia, since his appointment with the Army Medical Service Corps?

2. What is his rank, and date of appointment?

Sir Edward Kemp:

1. Pay and allowances, \$624.50. No separation allowance paid.

2. This officer was appointed a Lieutenant (supernumerary) in the Army Medical Corps on 28th February, 1917, and a captain in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on the 30th June, 1917.

Dr. Leblanc is the Conservative member for the county of Richmond in the Provincial Legislature. He obtained a commission while the Legislature was sitting in Halifax and was appointed supernumerary lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps, and captain in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, on the 30th of June. In the return brought down some weeks ago to which reference has been made, Dr. Leblanc's name appears as Captain Leblanc employed as medical officer, field hospital, at a salary of \$1,916. He was in Halifax since his appointment and remained there, and it was stated that he was going overseas. As a matter of fact, he did attempt to go overseas a few weeks ago. He went on board a transport for the purpose of going to England to perform such services in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as might be allotted to him, but he states that after he was on board the transport he received a telegram from Ottawa not to go overseas but to remain in Halifax. The telegram arrived about the time that the resolution to extend the life of Parliament was considered in this House and the Prime Minister announced that, for reasons which he then