

just as rigid in their party affiliations, and just as rigid in their dispensing of patronage, in connection with the war as in connection with anything else. And, that being the case, they created a cleavage in this country which they cannot very well overcome. They have made two camps, as far as their favourites, and advancement and promotion were concerned. They have given favours to their friends, and left nothing attractive to the other side. We have had appropriation after appropriation voted in this House, and we have had money Bills introduced by the Minister of Finance, and I have always taken opportunity, when a vote was passed, to say: I do not object to any moneys you are getting, but see to it that the money is used in the best interest of the country, and give up your partisan dispensing of patronage. I have had promises that that would be done, but never any fulfilment of those promises. That has been the state of affairs from the commencement of the war to the present time. It is possible, Mr. Speaker, for a man to create dissensions and dissatisfactions in his own house. If a man has six boys, and he gives three of them boots and clothing, and treats them lavishly, although perhaps not better than they ought to be treated, but he lets the other three go barefooted, with no proper food, and does not look after them properly, could it be expected that the same service, fealty, love and affection would be accorded to the parent by the three neglected sons that he would expect from those upon whom he lavishes his goods and his love? That would not be natural. That is the way this country has been treated by the Government. They have given their moneys, promotions, offices, advancement, and, if they could, would have given military crosses and knighthoods to the Tories, and they have left the Liberals out in the cold. I think it is a most marvellous thing that we obtained the result we did in this country under the voluntary system, judging by the way it was handled by hon. gentleman who had the responsibility of procuring enlistment and the conduct of the war generally. What say you as to the fairness of the way in which matters were conducted in this country by the Government themselves since the outbreak of the war, if we are to believe the correspondence—not merely stories—between the ex-Minister of Militia and the Prime Minister? That correspondence has been brought down, and is on the records of this House over the signature of the ex-Minister of Militia, and it shows that four

long months had passed while he was trying to get the second contingent to the front, when it was just as necessary to send assistance to the boys in the trenches as it is now. That period elapsed with something like 40,000 or 50,000 men ready to be sent, but they were held. And why? Because they had no equipments? Not at all. Were they held because they were not trained and ready to take their places at the front? Not at all. They were held, Sir, because there was a faction in the Cabinet, fighting for graft, and wanting to get the money of the country, to apply it to their own purposes and the purposes of their friends.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McKENZIE: Nothing could be more fiendish, and nothing or more deserving of crucifixion, if it were possible to invoke such a punishment in this country, of every man in the Cabinet who had anything to do with that nefarious act of holding up men for three months, because there was a wrangle in the Cabinet, as to who would get his hand deepest into the Treasury, or the fund to be obtained from the purchase of equipment furnished to these men. That statement is published and is a matter of record. It is official, as between the retiring minister and the Prime Minister, and it never has been denied. I will repeat what I stated in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Government, that, partisan as I am, I would not believe such a thing, if it came to me through the newspapers, or through sources of my own party, but when it comes over the signature of the Minister of Militia, who knows what is going on in the sanctum-sanctorum of the Government, I have nothing to do but believe it, until substantial evidence to the contrary is produced. As, such evidence has not been forthcoming, nothing remains but for the country to believe that the facts are just as they were presented, and that members of the Government were content to sit down for four months, bickering about how much money they could make, and permitting the boys at the front to be killed, while the support that should be sent to them, in the nature of forty or fifty thousand men, remained idle in this country, at a cost of twenty-five or thirty million of money, absolutely to no purpose. It would have been better for them to have voted some money between themselves, put it in the Estimates and let the country pay for it. There would be