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FROM A CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER.

The following editorial appeared in the *Peterboro Review*, the most prominent and influential Conservative newspaper in Central Ontario, June 23rd, 1919:—

Mr. W. T. R. Preston, organizer for the Liberal party, was the chief speaker at the meeting of the Liberals here Saturday afternoon. Governments have been arraigned before by party speakers, and all due allowance is made for their charges, but no man, either in public or private, brought such serious accusations against an Administration as Mr. Preston did in his address here Saturday. He speaks not from hearsay. He is not relaying rumors, but bases his charges on what he actually saw and heard as an official of the Opposition sent to Europe to look after the interests of his party when the soldiers' vote was taken during the election of 1917. His address here contained practically the same charges that were brought in the House early last year and which were based on information furnished by Mr. Preston—charges which the Government at that time was pleased to ignore.

It is indeed a serious situation. If Mr. Preston's charges are true, the guilty, even those in highest place, should not be tolerated for a moment. They are alike a disgrace to public life and to humanity. Jails and penitentiaries are yawning for such miscreants, and the blood of the martyred heroes—the young men of Canada whom the men in authority wantonly sent to their graves—cries out for vengeance.

If Mr. Preston's charges are false, if they are even capable of modification, then the place for him is in jail instead of on a public platform. He admits this much himself, and, declaring his ability to produce evidence in support of everything he says, defies the accused to do their worst. Openly and apparently unaided, he throws down the gauntlet.

If officers of the Canadian army lent themselves to more than shady political chicanery in order to induce the soldiers to vote for the party in power, if by way of punishment to do so they sent these young men to the trenches, which so often meant going to their graves; if they favored those who did their will by keeping them in safety in England, if in all this they were not only encouraged but actually inspired by the Government at home—then the people of Canada are entitled to the facts.

The people of Canada have a right to know, too, if Canadian officers were decorated with medals and crosses supposed to be the insignia of honorable military service, for proficiency in political intrigue alone.

If upwards of thirty thousand Canadian troops were kept manoeuvring on the hills of Surrey to furnish a moving picture concern with a representation of the battle of Vimy Ridge while their less favored comrades were falling by the hundreds in France, let the truth be made known.

Mr. Preston was not alone in his charges. Capt. C. R. Widdifield, who presided at the meeting Saturday, and who will not be accused by those who know him of sensationalism, paved the way and prepared the audience in a measure for what was to follow when he outlined the same charges in introducing the speaker. Capt. Widdifield is a veteran who has seen honorable service. He was in Europe, too, during the election of 1917, and for that reason is entitled to having every consideration shown for what he says.

National honor is of more moment than political gain. No party should be allowed to wade through blood and slaughter to power or to raise itself by making stepping-stones of the thousands of graves of Canadians in Flanders.