

"Nothing Whatever in the Stories."

Major General Hughes responded readily: "I can point to many French-Canadians and British-Canadians who have done splendid service. I just want to say that **there is nothing whatever in the stories that have been sent out.** Every Canadian, whether British or French, has done his duty splendidly."

Thus did Major General Hughes, Minister of Militia in the cabinet of Sir Robert Borden, give the lie direct to the infamous aspersions on French-Canadians. And thus did he set at naught, by the simple telling of the truth, the foul Tory plot to discredit Sir Wilfrid Laurier. For this was the sole object of the carefully concocted lying aspersions on the loyalty of French-Canadians; that the aspersions should, by inference, rest on the greatest living Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

But Major General Hughes went even further, when pressed for further particulars by Hon. Charles Marcl, member for Bonaventure. Asked as to how many men the three regiments would represent, the Major General said: "That would mean 3,000 men **besides those who went with the First Contingent or with the various Artillery Corps, the Medical Corps, the Army Service Corps—Oh, they (the French-Canadians) have done splendidly!**"

Hon. Mr. Marcl suggested that taking them all in all, close upon 10,000 French-Canadians must have enlisted for the War.

Major General Hughes—"I could not give the figures, but there are 3,000 infantry men, and 4,000 or 5,000 others, and probably more."

"FLAG FLAPDOODLE."

THE Ottawa Citizen, which supported the Conservative party in 1911, offers some pertinent remarks on the subject of flag-flapping by the professional Tory patronage politicians, remarks which are uncommonly pat just at the moment when literature from the official press bureau of the Borden Nationalist-Conservatives has bared the intention of the Government to trust everything to a frantic campaign of loyalty shouting. In an editorial on April 10th, the Citizen said:

"Some bad breaks have been made during the present War by the professional patriotic politicians: from the increased tax against British trade down to cavalry horse thieving and profiteering on rotten boots and bandages for the wounded soldiers. But through it all the patronage gang has continued to wave the flag and pretend to be saving the Empire. At this moment they are jockeying in the House of Pretence to work up a patriotic cry over the soldiers' votes. . . . A few decoy ducks and stool pigeons well placed in the public service and regular attenders at the patriotic club meetings and loyal orders are invaluable to the Tammany scheme of things political in Canada: particularly serviceable will be the demagogue endowed with the gift of platform flapdoodle. Given a few such traitors to British freedom and progress, and the Tammany politician in Canada is free to wallow up to the armpits in patronage and the spoils of office: free even to knife British trade by tariff taxation and to fatten on rotten boots and the field dressings for the Empire's wounded soldiers."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN PARLIAMENT.

Canvas Shoes for Soldiers.

March 8.—Hon. Mr. Hazen, answering for Major-General Hughes, told Hon. Mr. Murphy that 75,000 pairs of canvas shoes were bought for the 1st Canadian Contingent at a cost of \$2.00 per pair, and supplied to the non-commissioned officers and men; also that 45,000 pairs additional were bought at the same price, some of which were sent to Salisbury and the balance are held in Ordnance Stores.

The Post Office Axe.

March 8.—Hon. T. C. Casgrain informed Mr. W. A. Buchanan, M.P., (Medicine Hat) that since October 11th, 1911, thirteen postmasters have been removed from office in the electoral constituency of Medicine Hat.

Pensions to Retired Judges.

March 8.—Hon. W. T. White, answering Mr. Edmond Proulx, M.P., (Prescott) submitted a statement showing that the amounts paid yearly to retired judges for pensions or retiring allowances amounted to \$145,464 in 1912, \$173,866 in 1913 and \$175,668 in 1914.

Post Offices Closed.

March 10.—Hon. T. C. Casgrain told Mr. J. H. Sinclair, M.P., (Guysborough) that 1,255 post offices have been closed in Canada since January 1st, 1914, of which 35 were closed because of decrease in business in the offices.

Military Bicycles.

March 15.—Major General Hughes told Mr. W. M. Gorman, M.P., (Welland), that since August 1, 1914, the Militia Department has purchased 1,220 bicycles, 450 at \$62 each and 770 at \$55 each.

Motor Trucks from U.S.

March 18.—Major General Hughes told Mr. M. S. Delisle, M.P., (Portneuf) that 150 motor trucks for the second contingent were bought from the Kelly-Springfield Motor Truck Co., Springfield, Ohio, U.S.A., at \$2550 each, less \$259.32 for tires and tools which are being purchased in Canada.

Canada's Gift of Flour.

March 29.—Sir George Foster told Mr. J. A. Robb, M.P., (Huntingdon) that the cost of the 1,000,000 bags of flour, the gift of the people of Canada to the British Government, was \$2.80 per bag.

Valise Equipment.

April 5.—Major General Hughes told Mr. E. M. Macdonald, (Pictou) that the first Canadian Expeditionary Force sent to England was supplied with 13,920 sets of "Oliver" pattern valise equipment, and in answer to the question "Were they discarded in England as unnecessary or useless?" answered "It is reported that the Oliver equipment was withdrawn and the division completed with Webb equipment from the British Ordnance". A return tabled in the Commons, dated March 17, 1915, showed that from July 1, 1914 to the date of the return, 96,700 sets of Oliver equipment, similar to that supplied to the First Contingent, had been ordered and received from 23 contractors varying from \$6.75 to \$7.25 per set.