

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

On the Orders of the Day:

SOLDIERS' EQUIPMENT.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my hon. friend the Minister of Militia (Sir Sam Hughes) of the contents of a letter which I have received from a certain county in Ontario. I do not care to give any names at the present time. A new battalion is being raised in this county, and my correspondent informs me that subscriptions are being taken up throughout the locality to supply the men with things which it is claimed are necessary, namely: five field kitchens, a motor truck, granite ware for cooking, a mess tent for the soldiers and a mess tent for the officers, signs or markers indicating the battalion to be attached to the coats of the men, and several other small items. I have heard that this is not the first incident of this nature, but that many similar subscriptions have been taken up. In my opinion, all these things should be provided by the Government as part of the equipment of the soldiers. Can my hon. friend give me any information on this matter?

Sir SAM HUGHES: Everything necessary for the soldiers in the field is supplied by the department.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: These subscriptions are being asked to supply the soldiers with field kitchens, mess tents, signs or markers indicating the battalion, and so on. These seem to be necessities which should be supplied by the Government.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Field kitchens are now supplied by the department. They were not supplied at the beginning of the war, because a great many friends thought they would like to recognize their local battalions by supplying them with field kitchens. These mess tents are really not necessary. If a battalion is to be in camp for the summer, there is no reason why it should not have mess tents, but they are not essential for the soldiers' welfare. We supply motor trucks, but many regiments wanted additional trucks of their own and we allowed subscriptions to be taken up for them in a couple of cases, but only in the way I have mentioned.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I would suggest to my hon. friend that whatever he thinks are necessities should be supplied

[Mr. Sinclair.]

by the Government, and that it is bad practice to allow subscriptions to be taken up for whatever is not necessary.

Sir SAM HUGHES: These things are not taken to the front; they are only allowed for the summer camps.

THE LATE MR. B. B. LAW, M.P.

On the Orders of the Day:

Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It seems apparent that the apprehension which we had as to one of the members of this House, the hon. member for Yarmouth, N.S., Mr. Law, has become a certainty. It was my privilege and my duty, when I spoke in the House on Friday last, to express my very deep regret at the loss which we have all sustained through his death, and also to express the sympathy felt, I know, by all members with the family and friends of Mr. Law in their bereavement. It has been suggested to me that some hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House who did not find the opportunity to pay a tribute to the memory of Mr. Law on Friday last, would desire the privilege of doing so to-day, and I hope that with the permission of the House they may avail themselves of this opportunity.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou): On behalf of the gentlemen on this side of the House who have been associated in the representation of Nova Scotia in this Parliament with our friend, Mr. Law, who was the only victim among the members of this House in the disaster of Thursday night, I desire to express my thanks to the Prime Minister for the opportunity he has given us to say a word or two in appreciation of our late colleague. Mr. Law was the oldest member of this House in point of service, with the exception of the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden), from the province from which we come. He was the dean of the representation on this side from the province of Nova Scotia. Speaking as one who had the honour and pleasure of sitting in the Legislature of Nova Scotia with Mr. Law's esteemed father some fifteen or eighteen years ago, I desire to say that those of us who come from that province regard Mr. Bowman Law as a man who among all our number was typical of the business people of Nova Scotia. He represented the constituency of Yarmouth where, in the old days, the merchants built their vessels and sailed them on the seven seas. He was the inheritor of a business established in those days, which he extended and developed and