

As to their equipment, I have mentioned some of the grossest 'errors' made: burned uniforms, slaughtered horses, boots with split soles, razors *made in Germany* and purchased at a fabulous price, etc. The rigorous attention of the military authorities and of parliament will have to be called upon these. (*)

For the time being, it is sufficient to state that the government and parliament of Canada having decided to support Britain, France and Belgium with military help, they must regard it as their strict duty to see that our intervention in the war is useful, honourable and effective.

It is all very well for politicians and journalists, not one of whom will see German howitzers nearer than three thousand miles off, to shout: "Let us send 100,000, 200,000 men!" If they fill the camps and the trenches of the allies with untrained men, it will be a nuisance to France, obliged to feed them, and to England who endeavours to send to the front nothing but soldiers of the first quality. To send to the front ill-equipped or insufficiently trained troops, is to send them to a certain and useless death. It is murder pure and simple.

Let us hope that the thought and example of Lord Kitchener, a first-class administrator as well as a valiant soldier, will instil in the minds of our newly made war politicians one salutary thought: They have a more imperious duty than that of sending many men to fight — while they stay quiet at home. That duty is to send such troops only as can serve

(*) The first intimation of those scandalous operations appeared in "Le Devoir". Naturally, it was considered by the 'loyal' people as further evidence of my 'disloyalty'. On the 10th of December, the following appeared in the Montreal "Star":

"Investigation of the complaints made of the quality of the boots supplied to the First Contingent show that many of them were amply justified, inferior leather being used and flagrant tricks of the trade employed to give a superficial appearance of good workmanship to shoddy material and glaring make-shifts. One firm in particular has been convicted of these "get-rich-quick" methods, but the facts are all known in Ottawa and it is to be presumed that adequate safe-guards will be taken in future".

What will be the outcome? In Europe, the perpetrators of similar crimes would be summarily dealt with. In Canada, being large purveyors to party funds, they will likely go to the Senate and be knighted. In this happy country of 'British liberty and civilisation', the 'traitor' to the Crown is not the scoundrel who robs the Crown, but the honest man who denounces robbery.