

would arise. It is perhaps more than human nature could expect, but we cannot close our eyes to the fact, not only have mistakes been made, but frauds have been committed, which have resulted in injury to the health of our troops and impairment of their efficiency."

There can be no doubt that the thought in the mind of the leader of the Opposition in making this statement was that serious frauds in connection with the supply of boots had been perpetrated upon the authorities.

Liberal Attack on the Manufacturers.

Liberal members in the House also lost no opportunity of casting reflections and making insinuations against the Canadian shoe manufacturers on this account. The member for Edmonton, Hon. Frank Oliver, in the Budget debate, said:

"There is another class of patriots in this country who ought to have attention at this particular time. I speak of the manufacturers of boots. In the exposures we have had lately, if there is any class of manufacturers who are not entitled to consideration at the hands of this Government, it is our friends who make boots."

The Ferguson report has revealed what a high type of "patriot" Oliver is. Dr. Michael Clark in his emphatic and cynical way expressed himself that "this is the way the bootmakers die for the flag." During the course of the discussions which took place in the House upon varied subjects the members of the Opposition lost no opportunity of casting slurs and discredit upon those Canadian manufacturers who have supplied the Militia Department with boots.

The Liberal press also, from one end of Canada to the other carried on a systematic campaign, having the same object in view. The most important paper in the province of Ontario on the Liberal side is the Toronto Globe. The Toronto Globe is edited by a clergyman and its editorials are supposedly written from a highly moral and religious standpoint, yet the Toronto Globe did not allow an opportunity to pass that could be used to discredit and humiliate Canadian shoe manufacturers. The Toronto Globe on March 1st said this: "The punk bootmen are still at large." On the 8th of the same month it said that "The boot scandal will stand as a discouraging warning until it is cleared away by the adequate punishment of the guilty." On the 24th of March it said, "Shavings of wood and pieces of cork do not appear to be good material out of which to make the soles of soldiers' boots." Many more quotations of a similar nature could be referred to, but enough have been used to show the spirit that had taken possession not only of Liberal members of Parliament but of the Liberal press in their endeavour to discredit the Canadian shoe industry.

Liberal Member Admits no Fraud.

In the minority report, the report of the Liberal members who made up the commission, it will be noted that it does not suggest directly or indirectly that any evidence was submitted that would in any way stand as a charge of graft or fraud against a single shoe manufacturer. One of the members of the committee, the Liberal member for North Oxford, Mr. Nesbitt, in the discussion which followed, said that "The manufacturers had supplied boots to the Department which were well up to the sample" and that "There was absolutely no evidence of fraud upon their part." So that it must be admitted in view of the reports, which have