

M. E. Nichols, Esq., - - - - - #3.

utmost service.....toward the conduct of the war" she should be recruiting and training men. Her proportion on the basis of 1,500,000 for England would be about 350,000 and on the basis of 3,500,000 would be about 800,000. If Canada's effort were devoted solely to the sending of divisions that would be the equivalent of about twenty-five divisions with ample reserves to re-enforce them over a very long period of time.

(6) The incompetence of the Department of Defence was a byword before the outbreak of war. The examples of incompetence have been more glaring if anything since September 1st. Probably the most outstanding example of this is the inclusion of every permanent force unit in Canada in the First Division. While I was in Parliament we were assured that the voting for the permanent force was justified on the ground that they were creating a cadre of instructors who would be available for the Non-Permanent Active Militia in the event of war. Practically no instructors have been available, the N.P.A.M. has been left to its own devices, and the country is now practically depleted of the trained instructors that were supposed to be available through the permanent force.

The N.P.A.M. has suffered untold discomfort due to lack of boots, clothing and equipment. Conditions were so shocking that a local committee raised a large sum to supply clothing, citizens left their old boots at armouries and the units secured cobblers and leather at their own expense to repair the boots so that the men would have some protection from the elements. Two months passed before boots arrived and then they were of the most shoddy character. It was nearly three months before boots worthy of the name arrived.

At least one unit was sent across Canada in the dead of winter in cotton underwear and cotton shirts. Their battle dress bore no mark to indicate the country, service or unit to which they belong.