

who is not on the pay roll. Now, I come to St. John, which I do know something about. It is true that in the winter time soldiers come through in quite large numbers and that there have been a few regiments permanently in New Brunswick since the war began, but the number of gentlemen travelling around that city in uniform is legion.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Are they members of the headquarters staff?

Mr. CARVELL: Yes, they have the red tabs. I know the difference between a staff officer and an ordinary army or fighting officer. The hotels are filled with them. You meet them travelling on railway trains wherever you go. Sometimes it is impossible to get accommodation because it has all been taken up before hand. In addition to the staff there are the names of numbers of gentlemen who are rendering no military service in the Maritime Provinces, but who are drawing down big salaries. I am speaking of men who are outside of the staff entirely, because I know whether they belong to the staff or not. I saw them. I know some of these people in New Brunswick, and I know a lot of gentlemen who have been drawing pay for three years who have rendered no service to the country. The number of men who are paid by the Militia Department but not employed in any useful service is nothing short of a scandal. I cannot believe, notwithstanding the statement the minister makes—and I know he makes it in good faith—that it is necessary to have 176 officers on the general staff to look after the small amount of business there must be in the Maritime Provinces. My hon. friend speaks of the defences along the coast, and things of that kind. These are all necessary, and we do not expect the minister to give any detailed account of them. But the gentlemen on this staff are not looking after the military defences on the coast of Nova Scotia. These are fellows who are drawing pay and doing nothing for it. The man who is performing service is all right; nobody objects to that. It is necessary to have the defences of the country looked after. But when anybody tells me that it is necessary to have 176 officers, I am bound to say that I cannot accept any such statement. In addition to the salaries paid to these officers, their wives are drawing big separation allowances, and in addition to that you have a whole army of stenographers, batmen, footmen, messengers, and all that sort of thing. I do not think I am extravagant when I

say that \$600,000 a year will not pay the expenses of the general staff in the Maritime Provinces. The list which was laid on the table of the House a few weeks ago totals up to \$398,000—practically \$400,000. I figured it at that including the nursing sisters. I think I am perfectly justified in adding \$200,000 on account of separation allowances and the army of unemployed which is attached to the general staff in the Maritime Provinces. We do look to the minister as a business man to see that this condition of affairs is remedied. We do not believe it is necessary. While I realize that there must be some staff officers, as far as the office work in New Brunswick is concerned I could find twenty-five men in that province who, with two first-class clerks and four stenographers could do all the business. There cannot be any great amount of work to be done. It is not possible, because the men are not there. There is some correspondence, I will admit, but three or four good stenographers and a couple of first-class clerks will turn out a lot of that work in a day. The country is full of these officers. I do feel that, with the enormous financial burden that this country has incurred and with a condition of affairs which I would not dare to speak of in Parliament in connection with military matters, there can be no justification for this expenditure.

Munitions plants, I am told, have been closed down on forty-eight hours notice. It seems to me a most horrible thing, with this financial condition staring us in the face, that \$600,000 or \$700,000 a year is being expended on what you might call the overhead expenses of looking after military matters in the Maritime Provinces. The services of three-quarters of these men could be dispensed with. The minister shakes his head? I say I live in that country, and I have some idea of what is going on. I tell him that, outside of the staff, there are officers by the dozen in the Maritime Provinces who have managed to get shifted from one unit to another, who have never gone across the water, who never intend to go if they can help it, and who are simply a burden upon the country. These are the men who ought to be conscripted first in Canada, not as officers, but as privates in the rear rank. I can give the minister the names, although I do not want to speak about them publicly. What is true in the Maritime Provinces is true of Canada as a whole. There is a whole army of these unemployed officers throughout this country and every member in this House