

Perhaps you will think this a matter worth pursuing, especially as I understand that the physique of the great majority of would-be recruits is finer than that of the contingents already sent, the latter being largely young men from the towns, who are neither so robust nor so capable of turning their hands to anything as the western settlers.—I am sir, etc.,

H. J. P.

If this matter has not already been drawn to the attention of the Government, it is one's duty to bring it to their attention now, because from all the information we have, from the speeches of public men in England, from the reports of Sir John French, and from private letters from the men serving in the trenches, the great need at the present moment seems to be men; it is almost heart-rending to read some of the letters that were published in the beginning of the war from men who were then fighting, who pointed out so strongly that had they had more men at that time they could have done so very much better. The men who are ready to come forward should be in training and getting themselves ready to take their places in the fighting line. In the near future it is going to be a question of being able to put the greatest possible number of men in the front, and all those men who are ready and anxious to do their part and go to the front should have an opportunity of getting there either through the Canadian Government, or by being placed in a position to go over and join the forces in England. I hope that the Government will see their way to giving attention to this matter, and dealing with it as promptly as possible. Another matter which has been widely talked about in the country and by the people is the question of the supplies to the men, especially in the matter of boots. It was very gratifying to find the Minister of Militia when he was on his tour in the West the other day, stating that he was going to make it very warm for the man who supplied those boots, as soon as ever he could find him. We hope that the Government are going to take every possible measure towards bringing to justice these contractors, or whoever it is that is responsible for having issued to the men those undesirable boots, which have caused trouble not only in England, but also in the western country. The Government, dealing with large sums of money as they have to do at the present time, and with large contracts, are sure to come across men who are not as scrupulous as they ought to be in carrying out their contracts and in supplying the goods they are called upon to supply; but the only

way that the Government can safeguard itself in a matter of this kind is by letting it be known that any man who does not fulfil the specifications of his contract, who does not carry out that contract to its strict letter, will be brought to time and have to give an account to the country of his delinquency; no man, whatever his position, who is shown to be responsible for sending out supplies that are not up to the specifications, should be left off the delinquent list. The Government have a great responsibility on their shoulders in this matter, and I am sure that they will take it up and show to the country that they realize the seriousness of the situation, and are prepared to do everything that should be done to see that our men are properly equipped, and that they should not suffer in any shape or form from the non-fulfilment of the contracts that are let by the Government. There is not very much to be discussed in the speech from the Throne. The whole Address deals with the question of war and there is only one clause dealing with the trade of the country. We are very glad to know from that statement that the trade of the country has been able to stand the strain that has been put upon it by the exceptional conditions which arose in August last. We hope to learn from the Government later on, what they have been able to do to assist the trade of the country in meeting those conditions; what new departures they have been able to make to help in meeting the conditions that then arose. At this time I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a notice that appeared in a paper a short time ago that the Government of Australia had not been able to see their way to giving to Canada a preference in the Australian markets. We had all hoped that something of this kind could have been obtained when the Government of Australia was reconsidering the question of tariff, and it is a great disappointment, especially to the people of the West and British Columbia, that they are not going to be able to get any preference in the Australian market for the goods that they send down there. We hope that this is not a final arrangement, but that the Government will assure the country that they will be able to make some negotiations with the Australian Government whereby the trade in Canada can be put in a more preferential position than that of our neighbours to the south. Before I sit down I will try to express the appreciation and the confid-