

the usual reservations. I did not ask for any military secrets, but simply for information regarding ordinary matters of departmental administration. I am not going to occupy any time, but as the minister is aware, serious allegations were made in regard to this matter. Information was put in my possession, properly documented and supported by statutory declarations, indicating a very serious state of affairs in regard to the administration of the Royal 22nd Regiment, concerning serious irregularities in the expenditure of government funds and the disposition of government property, and in the general discipline of the regiment. I have, therefore, no recourse but to place on record some of these charges and ask for a statement from the minister, as to whether the charges have been investigated, and what findings were given with regard thereto; and as the matter becomes of particular importance, in view of the fact that certain of the senior officers involved have been retained in the service and since promoted, having been given responsible positions that appropriate action be taken in the matter. One junior officer who made some effort to expose these irregularities has been victimized, grossly discriminated against and dismissed from the service. His career is blighted, and generally his future is darkened. Certain specific charges were made. One was that the regimental funds of the Royal 22nd Regiment have been misappropriated and in some instances expended upon things alien not only to the regiment but also to the militia.

Officers' mess and regimental property have been irregularly disposed of by a commanding officer of the Royal 22nd Regiment. Some commanding officers of the Royal 22nd Regiment have made it a custom to delete their names from the list of debtors submitted to the district officer commanding, on the 15th of every month, although they paid their mess bills approximately biannually or whenever they could find the money.

A company commander, Royal 22nd Regiment, solicited and charged his men three dollars per month to teach them English for the educational training examinations. I am qualified to state that this officer does not know the English language well enough to teach it. The commanding officer not only tolerated but supported that officer's most unethical practice.

It has been the custom of most married officers of the Royal 22nd Regiment to draw servant allowance, although they employed soldier servants. The daily amount involved is small, being forty cents; but, spread over a period of ten years, it amounts to approximately one thousand five hundred dollars.

A commanding officer, Royal 22nd Regiment, took possession of and used, for himself and his family, not only at camp but also in town, most of the bed linen which the government supplies for the accommodation of the unmarried personnel living in barracks.

Another serious charge was that commanding officers were guilty of an indictable offence, that is to say, bootlegging, permitting the use in the officers' mess of spirits on which the excise tax was not paid, contrary to the provisions of the Liquor Control Act.

I have a number of statutory declarations of those employed in the mess in support of this charge. The junior officer concerned had certain rights as well as responsibilities. He had a right to interest himself in any such irregularities, and he did so, with the result, as I have said, that he was grossly discriminated against and dismissed from the service without a proper inquiry. I have the confidential report of his service and there is not an entry in that report on the part of the senior officers indicating that his conduct was anything but completely satisfactory. But a return was brought down into the house which I think was in very bad taste on the part of the officers of the department, because it shows a most vindictive attitude towards this gentleman, Captain Roy. It is stated:

This officer's retirement was promoted by the fact that over a period of some eight years, and notwithstanding repeated warnings to the contrary, there occurred very many instances of derelictions from duty, failure to comply with regulations, acts detrimental to discipline and to the good of his regiment, the cumulative effect of these being not only subversive to discipline in the unit but also giving a bad example to the younger officers, and thus making it essential in the general interests of the service to remove this officer.

These charges were placed on the record without this officer being granted a hearing, and I have reason to believe that this action was taken in consequence of his having made some effort to stop gross irregularities in the administration of the affairs of the Royal 22nd Regiment. I have made it my business to consult other senior officers who had knowledge of these affairs and they corroborate the statement of this officer. The conditions existing in Quebec were an open scandal throughout the force. I will not deal with the matter at length. I simply wish to bring it to the attention of the minister and to protest against the fact that I was not given the information I had the right to receive as a member of this house with regard to the administration of government funds. I have asked that proper steps be taken, if the charges have been confirmed by inquiry, to deal with the senior officers who condoned practices so vicious and irregular. I also make a definite