

good parliamentarians as the three gentlemen who have been selected as advisors of His Majesty in the Borden Government. I see my good friend from Perth North (Mr. Morphy); I see my good friend from Frontenac (Mr. Edwards); I see my silent friend from Algoma (Mr. Boyce)—all old and tried members of the House. Why were they not selected? They were just as much entitled to that recognition as the three gentlemen who have been chosen. Sir George Perley is a millionaire. He would have been well satisfied with being a minister without portfolio.

The hon. member for Shelburne and Queens (Mr. McCurdy) and the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. Clark) are comparatively new members of the House. There are old and tried members of the Conservative party who might as well be selected. The hon. member for Bruce admitted this afternoon that he was having a good time writing political pamphlets and preparing campaign literature.

Mr. GLASS: No, he did not.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Surely the Prime Minister will not, under the very trying circumstances through which Canada is passing, vote out of the moneys of the people \$5,000 to a gentleman who spends his time preparing political literature.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Mr. Speaker, I would not have put myself to the trouble of saying anything further on this question had it not been for the references made by speakers here to-day to General Gwatkin. I would not have brought up now any question with regard to General Gwatkin had it not been that during the recess of the House for the dinner hour I learned that for upwards of two years a systematic effort has been made in certain quarters to win credit for the work that I have done and to deprive me of my rights in regard to carrying on the important work in connection with the war.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Louder, please.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I beg pardon.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Louder.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I do not know what you are saying.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Speak louder.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I wish to say, in regard to the remarks made by the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. Bennett) in his speech to-day that I never directly or indirectly conveyed to the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) any statement in

[Mr. Lemieux.]

connection with General Gwatkin. I will not enter into the discussion of the General Gwatkin matter other than to say that his actions were such from the constitutional viewpoint that I had to submit a statement to the Prime Minister to prevent any of my officers, under pain of dismissal, from reporting, to any one, without my authority, matters that transpired in the Militia Council to any one, no matter how distinguished an officer he might be. That was accepted as a proper principle. I shall not refer to it further; the Prime Minister knows to what I am alluding. I found myself thwarted in very many ways. When General Mackenzie was there he arrogated to himself the absolute right to carry on the training of the troops in this country, to lay down the syllabus of the training course, and to adhere to it without reference to the Minister of Militia. The minister had nothing to say. That matter was very quickly rectified. I do not want to deprecate officers like General Mackenzie and General Gwatkin, but they have had opportunity of testing themselves on the level with our Canadian boys who have gone to the front and in every solitary instance the soldiers and officers who have been sent from Canada have measured up and have shown themselves to be infinitely superior to the men under whom they would have been serving overseas if it had not been that I insisted that we should have our own officers to carry on this work. Now, just a word in connection with General Gwatkin and the training of the troops. He had nothing to do with the training at Valcartier, or with the system, for that is something for which I myself claim credit. I gave the matter my personal attention. The first troops were trained entirely under my system and in almost every instance under my own personal supervision and by myself. They were the finest troops in the Empire, and they proved themselves to be the finest troops in the world.

Reference was made by the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. Bennett) to my having taken trips backwards and forwards across the country. I am happy to say that I could name nearly every officer of the rank of captain and upwards and recognize him when I met him. I can do so even to-day. I assumed the responsibility of saying that when the lives of our fellows were being placed in the hands of others the men in charge should, as far as possible, be the best men obtainable for the jobs, and I took the responsibility of carrying that out. I challenge the world to show where, in any