

"That the boot was unsuitable for the soldiers and for that particular work for which they were provided, because:

"(a) "The shape is such that the average foot has not room for the free movement of the toes and is thus not suitable for marching:

(b) "The leather is dry, containing no grease, and consequently quickly absorbs the waters:

(c) "Soles and heels not being re-inforced with metal, soon wear down, especially when wet."

The middlemen also got their innings. In Winnipeg a senior ordnance officer purchased 3,798 pairs of boots. They had been manufactured in Ontario and Quebec at from \$3.40 to \$3.60 per pair who sold to the Government for \$4.00 per pair.

What has Sir Herbert Ames to Say About This?

Quarter-Master Sergeant Wainwright of the 31st Battalion Calgary, before the Special Boot Committee describes the boots as too light and flimsy. Out of the 1,093 pairs of boots that came under his inspection not one dozen pairs were good. All the pairs that he examined and found defective he said that the largest percentage were made by the **Gauthier Company of Quebec, and Ames, Holden and McCready Co., of Montreal.** The boots were so bad that in some cases the soldiers discarded them and tied shingles to their feet. At Halifax the soldiers tied canvas bags to the soles of their boots so as to prevent their feet from coming through to the ground. Evidence proved that the health of the men had been effected on account of the poor quality of the boots supplied them and some had contracted heavy colds and had become tubercular.

When this was all proven and the facts shown to the Country, the Conservative members on the Boot Commission had the boldness to force through by brute majority a whitewashing report.

Binoculars

In the purchase of binoculars the full effect of the Tory patronage system with its ever present middlemen was proven most conclusively.

The Government could not or would not go direct to the manufacturer. Their friends had to be soothed. With the unfortunate middleman and his enormous profits, binoculars which originally sold for \$9.00, \$15.00, \$25.00 and \$28.00 cost the Government from \$41.00 to \$58.00. The channell for pur-