

THE DR. BRUCE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE REPORT.

FOR some [time] past considerable has been said and written in regard to the Dr. Bruce report made last Fall on the Army Medical Service Corps in England.

When this (Dr. Bruce) report was made public a Board known as the Baptie Commission was appointed in England to report upon the charges made by Dr. Bruce.

Speaking in the House of Commons on January 29th, Mr. G. W. Kyte, M.P. for Richmond, N.S., read a summary of the Dr. Bruce report which was in the form of the twenty-three charges. In this summary Mr. Kyte also gave the findings of the Baptie Board on these twenty-three charges.

For the benefit of our readers we reproduce this summary of the Bruce charges and immediately after each charge we reproduce the summary of the findings of the Baptie Board.

(Note. Summary of the Bruce charges in light face type, [the summary of the findings of the Baptie Board immediately after in dark face type.)

1. Soldiers arriving in England medically unfit. **Criticism largely justified.**
- 2 and 3. Segregation of Canadian wounded and centralization of Canadian hospitals. **Board admits this to be a fair question for argument, but thinks Dr. Bruce's suggestions impracticable and inadvisable.**
4. Unnecessary detention in hospitals. **Board professes to disagree with Dr. Bruce, but admits the justice of much of his criticism.**
5. V. A. D.'s inefficient. **Board thinks criticism unjustified and regrettable.**
6. Shorncliffe V. A. D. hospitals. **Board admits justice of some of the criticism.**
7. Relations with Red Cross. **Board admits justice of some of the criticism. "Glaring departures from service methods passed unnoticed."**
8. Detailling of C. A. M. C. personnel for Imperial service. **Board's opinion disagrees with that of Col. Bruce.**
9. Colonel Rennie in dual role at Shorncliffe. **Board thinks it's all right.**
10. Surgical operations not tending to increase military efficiency. **Criticism partially concurred in.**
- 11 and 12. Special hospitals Ramsgate and Buxton. **Col. Bruce's criticisms partially concurred in.**
13. Venereal situation. **Criticism partially concurred in.**
14. Infectious diseases. **Board thinks present arrangements all right.**
15. Medical Board situation. **Board thinks Dr. Bruce's words too strong, but "reformation" (a significant word) is essential.**
16. Records. **Criticisms generally concurred in.**
17. Pensions. **Criticisms too strong.**
18. Co-ordination. **Criticisms partially concurred in.**
19. C. A. M. C. personnel not used to advantage. **Board disagrees.**
20. Consulting specialists. **Criticisms partially concurred in.**
21. Discontent as to promotion. **Board thinks this is not abnormal, but a change is recommended.**
22. C. A. M. C. Training School. **Board agrees this has not been properly organized.**
23. Economy in management. **Board thinks there has been economy.**

Thus it will be seen that out of the twenty-three charges contained in Dr. Bruce's report eighteen are concurred in by the Baptie Board.

THE PATRONAGE SYSTEM DEFENDED.

THE amazing defence of patronage put up by the minister of labor at a meeting of the Conservative Association of Ottawa has caused serious thought among the independent thinkers of the Capital and elsewhere throughout the country. The minister, who spoke at the conclusion of an address to the members by Mr. H. P. Hill, a prominent leader of the Association and a protege of the minister's in the settlement of labor matters, went out of his way to drag in the question of reward to party followers over the head of the Civil Service Commission. The minister defended the spoils system quite openly and unrebuked by any of the faithful followers who listened to him in smug satisfaction, rejoicing openly in the stand that to the victors belonged the spoils. The minister made it plain that the party and the government were committed to the policy of putting party workers into soft berths as a reward for services at election time and whenever required. Mr. Crothers flattered the members by alleging that appointees under the spoils system had proved themselves as capable and efficient as those who earned positions by conforming to the Civil Service regulations. All this is pathetic when it is recalled that the much forgotten Halifax platform of the premier contained a strong plank in favor of Civil Service reform. Yet the last few months two of the members of the Rogers-Borden cabinet have come out flat-footed for party spoils. On the floor of the House of Commons the minister of public works in a typically savage assault on the head of the Civil Service Commission announced his determination to disregard the commission whenever it pleased him. Now the minister of labor follows suit. What a wobbly bunch of reformers the administration now consists of!

MR. SEVIGNY THE NATIONALIST.

What the "Orange Sentinel" Toronto stated in its issue of January 25th 1917 in regard to the election of Hon. Albert Sevigny, the new Minister of Inland Revenue.

"The by-election in Dorchester, Quebec, supplies an informing spectacle for the electors of Canada. The candidates are Albert Sevigny, the new Minister of Inland Revenue, and Lucien Cannon, who sat for that constituency in the Quebec Legislature. Mr. Sevigny won his seat in Dorchester in 1911 by playing the Nationalist game. His appeal to the electors of that county was upon lines dictated by Mr. Bourassa. On the present occasion he finds it impossible to talk Nationalism because he is a member of the Borden Government, and must defend the policy of that administration. In 1911, he was the candidate of a party which was not in power, and played the Nationalist to get votes. The situation is different today. He must be more circumspect in his utterances. No doubt that is why he places a greater restraint upon himself than is found necessary by his opponent, Mr. Cannon."