

Amherst and nothing else. I may say that I am not at all surprised to find that the hon. gentleman feels hurt when this is read out again and when he realizes the seriousness of his statements, and how unfounded and unjust they were to an officer with a distinguished career, to a man who has served his country well, to a man who had gone through a campaign and spilled his blood for the Empire, and was willing to do it again. I am not at all surprised that the hon. gentleman feels the pinch, feels hurt and sore when he finds that he so far forgot himself on that occasion as to make the statement which I have quoted. I say the evidence submitted to the House will not justify any such charges being made against this officer. While it may justify the findings—and I have no doubt that it may—it does not in any sense justify the charges which the hon. gentleman from Victoria made upon the occasion referred to. I am too young a member of this House to attempt to lecture older senators as to what they should do or say upon occasions of this kind. I cannot, however help saying that it would be more in keeping with the dignity of this House and with the position the hon. gentleman occupies in this Chamber, to have been more careful and discreet in the statements which he made upon that occasion. I say he has done a great injustice, and a great wrong to an officer in His Majesty's service; to an honourable man, to a faithful officer, and I think it is up to him to rise in his place and make ample apology to that officer for the charges which he made against him and which he cannot substantiate.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I must congratulate the hon. gentleman from Antigonish for his able plea on behalf of Col. Morris. It is easy to defend a man who is not attacked. Where did he get the ground for his able defence of a man who was not even mentioned in my exposition—I will not call it a charge, because I made no charge. I made inquiries. Col. Morris was never mentioned by me. I did not know him any more than the man in the moon, and the man in the moon has been present at many battles and seen much bloodshed, as has Col. Morris. If the hon. gentleman wanted to be fair to an opponent, he would have read the question which I put to the Government. Was there any mention of Col. Morris in that question? Did I not ask in general terms who were the military officers responsible for this

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR.

condition of things in the Amherst camp? Not a word was said about Col. Morris, not a word about Capt. Booth or Col. Sproule, or whatever his rank may be. I was looking for information and inquiring regarding things of public notoriety in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. I was not making any charges; I was simply asking for information which has been in the hands of the Government for the past two or three months, and which they only bring down to-day, some 25 or 30 pages of closely typewritten evidence and findings. I do not know whether the evidence asked for is produced. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman from Antigonish is a lawyer, doctor or what?

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—A farmer.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Now I understand. He is a farmer and got on to a straw to build up his eloquent speech and that straw is this: it is true that during my remarks in making this demand on the Government I did use the words "commanding officer," not knowing who the commanding officer was. My intention was not to say the commanding or head officer, but the commanding officer of the camp. Those are two different things altogether. The officer commanding is the head of all that district and all that region, and the hon. gentleman hangs his attack on me on that straw. I believe he is both a lawyer and farmer combined.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Not much of a lawyer.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—No. He hangs his whole speech on that one expression "Commanding officer of the camp." Remember, I did not say officer commanding, lieutenant-colonel or major-general, or anything of the kind. I said the commanding officer, and I should have said commanding officers, because there was not only one involved in this military scandal which exists from the highest down to the lowest depths of the public life of this country, from the ministerial ranks right down to the detention camps of Canada. Where they cannot steal money from the public treasury they allow prisoners to escape. I have not read the evidence, but the hon. gentleman has read the findings, and the court-martial in five or six of these findings declares there was culpable negligence in regard to the management and supervision of the camp.