

Mr. CURRIE: Mr. Speaker, I think that interruption was altogether uncalled for.

Mr. SINCLAIR: He has mentioned my son and I should be given a chance to answer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I am not going to break the rules, I am going to make a short explanation.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The Speaker ruled that in order the other night.

Mr. CURRIE: I want the hon. gentleman to explain why his son is not in khaki, that is what I want.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I will explain it if my hon. friend will give the opportunity.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope the hon. gentleman will use language in accordance with the dignity of the House of Commons.

Mr. SINCLAIR: My son was one of the first to enlist in the town in which he lives, at the time the war broke out. He offered himself for service and he was turned down by the medical authorities at that time as not being fit for service. He was anxious to do something and still persisted in his offer and they accepted him and sent him with a company of the 85th Highlanders to Canso to do service in connection with guarding the cable stations there. He remained there about fifteen months carrying out such instructions as were given to him by the military authorities, and at the end of that time his company was dismissed or sent back and another company was put in place of the Pictou company to do service at Canso. Consequently he returned home. The National Service was started about the same time. He received a card from the National Service and filled it up offering to do anything that it was in his power to do, was quite willing to perform any duty that the Militia Department might assign to him I am sorry to say that his health has not been good of late and that he has recently come out of the hospital after a serious operation. That is the story so far as my son is concerned, and I think the hon. gentleman who has been boasting of his courage cannot say that it is a courageous thing for him, to attack in this House a respectable young Canadian who is not here to defend himself.

Mr. CURRIE: I trust Mr. Speaker, you will observe that there is about eight minutes of my time being taken up with interruptions. All I have to say to these

[Mr. Sinclair.]

three members is that they have sat here all session sneering at returned officers and soldiers on this side, attacking this Bill, the Military Service Bill, and the Soldiers Voting Bill, and when you come to listen to their excuses for their sons, what do they amount to? They are the fathers of "home guardsmen," that is all they are.

Mr. OLIVER: I want to say that what the hon. member says is contemptible.

Mr. CURRIE: Not more contemptible than the charge that the hon. gentleman made against the hon. leader of the House earlier in the session.

Mr. OLIVER: That has nothing to do with to-night's performance.

Mr. CURRIE: The hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) sent to the front a boy who gave up his life and who was not in the home guard; he gave up his life in Flanders. The hon. member favoured compulsory service surely in several speeches which he made in this House, but when a Bill was introduced for that service he turned his back upon it and became a politician, much to the astonishment of his friends and best neighbours.

I have a word to say about the leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). We know that there has been plenty of interruption in this House and plenty of obstruction. Every effort has been made to prolong this session so that the session would end automatically with the death of Parliament without anything having been done so far as conscription is concerned. The leader of the Opposition did not take very much part in the obstruction himself, but he gave the lead to his party, and that is that he is opposed to conscription. The boys at the front well know that. The men at the front know the need for reserves to make up for casualties and sufficient to enable some of those who have been at the front from the beginning to come home on a few weeks furlough, which none of them have been able to do. The right hon. leader of the Opposition has not only burked everything in this House, but he has sat in his seat for four weeks when his followers in Montreal were using dynamite and threatening daggers to public men in this country, but never once did he get up and denounce these men and say they had nothing to do with the Liberal party and were not his followers. But the public must have surmised, and come to the conclusion, that the official Liberal party has several ends to it, that it not only has a constitutional