

ment could get information about this force and tell us for what purpose it is being recruited.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If any honourable members of the Senate are in possession of special information in regard to this matter, I invite them to divulge it so that it may be conveyed to the Minister of Defence. I do not know of any double-barrelled enlistment.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: It is true that it is taking place.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I shall draw it to the attention of the Minister.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The honourable senator behind me (Hon. Mr. Griesbach) understands this subject much better than I do, and it may be that my ideas have come from him. My understanding is this. We have many units throughout Canada which to-day are being called into active service under the Militia Act. Just what is the extent of the obligation of recruits may be a matter of dispute. I think that lawyers generally give it a very wide interpretation, but in the last war such an interpretation was not accepted, and a further oath was taken by members of the expeditionary force. Units are being placed on an active service basis and, as the phrase goes, embodied in the active militia. A man enlisting in one of those units enlists for, I believe, three years, for active service in the defence of Canada; and he goes on pay and allowances, and is provided with a uniform. I am not saying that the words "in the defence of Canada" mean that he cannot be required to serve outside of Canada. That question may be said to be not wholly settled.

Other units are not called into the active service, but are asked to recruit up to—I am not sure whether it is peace-time or war strength.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: War strength.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: A man enlisting in one of these units does not go on pay and allowances at all. He simply becomes a member of that unit, which is not called up and embodied in the militia.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I am not quite sure that I understood the honourable gentleman from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne). The ordinary peace-time militia is seeking recruits, but nobody is joining up, because men who want to enlist are applying to the field force, which is thought to be an expeditionary force. You have here a curious psychological condition which is familiar to all old soldiers, a condition which works somewhat along the line of Gresham's law that bad money drives out

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good. Young men are willing to join a force that will go somewhere and do something; they are not prepared to join a force in which they will be required to stay at home. A certain odium attaches to men who are going to stay at home, the result being that nobody will join the ordinary militia units. Just now they are as dead as Julius Caesar.

Then, stories reach me—not officially at all; I do not know anything more than anybody else learns from the newspapers and other indirect sources—that officers and men of the militia units not being mobilized are receiving invitations to leave their units and join this field force. For instance, I am told that the 15th Light Horse of Calgary and the 19th Dragoons of Edmonton are virtually being disbanded because their officers and men have been invited to join the field force. I know nothing of the Government's policy, but if these stories are true they indicate that the state of affairs is serious and the policy ill advised.

As I have stated, the public suppose that the field force now being raised is an expeditionary force. I will not say that the present Prime Minister has devious ways of doing things, but he certainly does things indirectly, though he may arrive at a desirable goal. It is believed that the raising of a field force is his idea of the best means of securing an expeditionary force. Nobody seems to know definitely whether the field force is an expeditionary force, but most soldiers think it is. If their supposition is correct, the raising of this force is being camouflaged to a certain degree.

The peace-time militia is dying for lack of recruits, and in at least the two instances I have mentioned the officers and men have actually been invited to transfer to the field force. Some of these peace-time units have been long established and have valuable traditions. What will become of such units after the war is over, I do not know. The Government may have some plan with respect to them, but, if so, I do not think anyone knows about it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Let me repeat, I know nothing about the two classes that have been referred to. The militia has been put on an active service basis, and the various units are bringing their ranks up to full strength, but I have heard nothing about this so-called field force. Therefore, I will make no surmise. This whole discussion will be brought directly to the attention of the Minister of Defence, and no doubt he will issue a statement which will make clear to all our people what is being done.