

"boots given our Canadian Contingent; stated they
"will not stand mud and water and heavy work.
"Consider overshoes impracticable as they are heavy
"to walk in and will only last short time on hard
"roads. In my opinion next contingent should be
"provided with boots made on regulation army
"pattern."

To this message no reply seems to have been sent. Failing to get any satisfaction from the Government at Ottawa, General Alderson ordered the 33,000 pairs of Canadian boots supplied the soldiers of the First Expeditionary Force to be thrown away and in their place he issued an equal number of British Army Boots.

MILITARY BOARDS CONDEMN BOOTS.

Equally sweeping in their condemnation of the Canadian Boots were the 90 or more Regimental Boards of Inquiry that sat in England and in Canada and reported the result of their findings to the Government at Ottawa. The majority of the Reports of these Boards were dragged out of their pigeon-holes by the Liberal Members of the Special Committee of the House of Commons, and many of the witnesses mentioned in the Reports were examined under oath before the Spécial Committee. It is important to cite a few extracts from their evidence so as to show the opinions held by the soldiers themselves regarding the boots supplied them by the Borden Government.

WHAT SOME SOLDIERS SAID.

Private McGarvie of the 6th Field Ambulance, Montreal, who had served 7 years in the Royal Scotch Fusiliers and whose occupation is that of a shoe maker described the boots served out to his Company as "rotten."

Quartermaster Sergeant Wainwright of the 31st Battalion, Calgary, who had served 12 years in the Imperial Army and who also is a shoemaker, described the boots as too light and flimsy, and said that out of 1,093 boots that came under his inspection there were not a dozen pairs as good as the inferior Gauthier sample. Of the boots which he examined and found defective he said that the biggest percentage was made by Gauthier of Quebec, and Ames, Holden & McCready of Montreal.

Officers and privates stationed in different parts of Canada testified that the defective boots resulted in men contracting colds, and otherwise becoming ill and unable to follow the prescribed training, as a result of which, much delay and inconvenience was caused at many training points. On this score the most damning evidence against the Government was given by certain witnesses from Halifax.