

WAR LOAN, \$250,000,000—*Con.*

the Government in connection with the organization required by the war, 3243. A difficulty has arisen in connection with the supply of drafts and reinforcements; I think hon. gentlemen will understand at once what it is, 3244. We have received a delegation which very strongly pressed upon the Government the necessity of a complete registration of the manhood of Canada, and eventually of conscription. We have not had an opportunity of giving adequate consideration to this proposal, but the Department of Militia and Defence has endeavoured, particularly during the past six or nine months, so to guide recruiting that the agricultural, commercial and industrial strength of Canada shall not be unduly weakened, 3445. The spirit of our people has been so splendid that no words of mine are needed in commendation of it. Who would have imagined, in August, 1914, that in less than 18 months more than 300,000 men in Canada would have flocked to the colours? The difficulty has been not to obtain enlistments, but to provide uniforms, equipment, arms, and all the necessaries for war, 3246. We do not possess in Canada men of military experience according to the standard my hon. friend has set up. The best we have been able to do is to take men who are inspired by a patriotic desire to serve in this war—some of them have had a little military experience in training camps, perhaps, some of them have had none at all, but they come forward—and we judge of their capacity as best we can, 3250. So far as the responsibilities of the Government are concerned, I hope it will be understood, not only by the members of this House, but by the country, that the various transactions and affairs carried on through an enormous territory in this country are in many cases absolutely beyond the direct control of any member of the Government, or, for that matter, of any departmental officer, 3288. Patronage and recruiting referred to, 3288-9. Mr. Macdonald's criticisms alluded to and answered, 3290-2. The criticism of other opposition members referred to, 3293-4.

Burnham, J. H. (Peterborough West)—3252.

Enlistment and patronage referred to, 3252-3.

Clark, Michael (Red Deer)—3275.

I intervene from a strict sense of duty, and because I think it would be unfortunate that a vote of this magnitude in connection with a war of this magnitude, should pass without a note of clear support of the Government at this crisis, coming from this side of the House. I am confident that the impartial historian will record that my right hon. friend who leads the Government has from the day the war-cloud burst kept a single eye to the winning of the war, and has not been led aside or diverted from that purpose by any small motive or any small consideration whatsoever, 3275. For my part,

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in such a crisis in the history of our Empire and of the country, as a private individual citizen who happens for a moment to have a seat in Parliament, I have no time for criticism. My talk, and such effort as I am able to exert, have been from the beginning behind the clear-eyed purpose of the Prime Minister, and they are so now; and so, I believe, are the thoughts and efforts of the people of Canada, 3276.

Copp, A. B. (Westmorland)—3264.

We all know that a very large number of men have been appointed to responsible positions in connection with the training of recruits and the raising of battalions, without due regard to their military qualifications, 3264. Just because a man happens to be an officer and holds a little higher rank than somebody else has, he has no right to abuse his authority in the way a number of military officers are doing in this country. The punishments that have been meted out to soldiers in the ranks have been reported in the newspapers, and are absolutely true, 3265. Extravagance charged in expenditure of public money for military purposes, 3266-7.

Graham, Geo. P. (Renfrew South)—3284.

Some criticism may seem in Parliament to be of small importance, but nothing that tends to improve conditions can be called a small matter, 3284. The situation has come home to us; members representing constituencies in this House have those dearest to them in the trenches, their lives hanging in the balance. Some have paid the highest tribute they could to their love of country, and it is with deep regret we have seen that a minister of the Crown has to mourn the loss of a dear son. It is a serious time, a serious situation, 3285. This resolution is for a large amount of money, and while it is a sad duty to vote it, still that sadness must be tempered by the consideration that we are glad in Canada that we are able to vote for it, and we are doubly glad that there is no dissenting voice to our voting it from one end of the country to the other, 3286-7.

Hughes, J. J. (Kings, P.E.I.)—3261.

Recruiting in P.E.I. and patronage list referred to, 3261-4.

Lemieux, Hon. R. (Rouville)—3281.

Since the beginning of the war there has been, generally speaking, bad feeling as regards the attitude of the province of Quebec, and if I speak of that particular subject this evening it is because I think it is relevant to the issue, and because I wish to, if possible, clear the sky, 3281-2. What has the province of Quebec done in the way of recruiting since the beginning of the war? Let us face the facts without any prejudice, bearing in mind the situation as I have described it in good faith, 3283-4.