

inion has fallen off. I think at the present time it is proceeding pretty well; but there was a falling-off for some time, and the question was what this falling-off in recruiting was due to. Now, honourable gentlemen, I do not think it was due to any shirking, as a rule, or to any lack of loyalty or of readiness on the part of the people to bear their share of the risk and burdens of the war. I think it can be put down to other causes. First, there is the exhaustion of the sources of supply; the number of young men to be drawn from has been very considerably diminished. When you take 400,000 men out of a population of 8,000,000 people, the supply of young men is very appreciably diminished. Another point is that some of these men cannot be spared in the places where they are working, for, in making munitions or in farming, they may be really doing as much to bring the war to a successful end as if they had donned khaki uniforms. Then, too, there is the character of the reports that come to us from the scene of action. The Canadian troops have distinguished themselves on a great many occasions, but how much do we know about it? Perhaps months after a fight has taken place we find that at Courcellette or at Givenchy or at some other place the Canadians have distinguished themselves greatly; but has any honourable gentleman seen any interesting and instructive account of any of these fights within a reasonable time after the fight has taken place? I can understand that it is right and proper that anything which might convey useful information to the enemy should not be made public; but, after the fight is over, why should not our people be allowed to know what their brothers and sons have been doing? There is no doubt that love of glory and fame is a very strong motive with the average man. These young men who risk their lives feel, and have a perfect right to feel, that if they distinguish themselves their friends at home should be informed of it. I think that stupidity on the part of the censors is responsible to a very great extent for the lessening of the tide of recruiting. It seems to me that things have been done with very little regard for the natural feelings of the men. This has been referred to by one honourable gentleman already.

Organizations have been broken up. For instance, we had in Nova Scotia what was called a Highland brigade. This brigade consisted of either four or five battalions, I have forgotten which. At any rate, if there

were only four in the first brigade, there was a fifth battalion which was intended to make up the losses from death and wounds. These men were recruited in Nova Scotia by officers who were supposed to be speaking with authority, and who went around amongst our people and said: "This is to be a Nova Scotian Highland brigade; they are to go into action together; they are to fight together and live together." That had a great deal to do with the triumphant success of the recruiting of that brigade. The late Governor General reviewed them in September at Aldershot, and he said that they were the finest body of men that he had reviewed. These men went over to the old country, and they had hardly got there when they were broken up; the 85th, the backbone of the brigade, was sent on ahead, and the others have gone no one knows where. You can understand the disappointment amongst both the men themselves and their friends in the province. It would be difficult to go into Pictou, or Antigonish, or any other county and recruit owing to the disappointment of the people.

What I think really the most effective cause of the slackness in recruiting is the delay which has taken place in getting men to the front. I just mention this 85th battalion as an illustration. They began to organize in August, 1915. In October, 1915, the battalion was practically completed and the men were ready to go almost any time after October. When it came to March the men were all keen to go, and disliked very much being kept back. That battalion did not leave Nova Scotia until October, 1916. They might have been eight months at the front before they were sent. The young men who enlist for the war do not enlist for the purpose of spending month after month drilling in Canada. They want to get to the front and do something, and the misfortune has been that they have not had the chance. I think if the honourable the leader of the Government will speed up his colleagues in sending the men across he will probably promote the cause of recruiting and render National Service quite unnecessary.

There is just one more matter which does not impress me very favourably, and that is the proposal to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Dominion. It seems to me, honourable gentlemen, that a time like this, when the country is engaged in what one might call a life-and-death struggle, when our young men are being killed or wounded or made prisoners on the other side of the Atlantic, is a singularly inappropriate time to under-