

appointed for the purpose. It was transmitted to me by the Director of National Service, and I thought it only proper that it should be drawn to the attention of the House.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Was the whole report read by my honourable friend?

Mr. OLIVER: I read the material portions of it, leaving out the introductory matter.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I know the Minister of Finance has the question of pensions under consideration, and I will draw his attention to this report to-morrow.

Mr. KYTE: In regard to the question of patronage, I desire to call the minister's attention to two or three other instances just to show how small and petty this matter has become in our part of the country. Two or three days after the war started, a few R. C. R. men from Halifax were sent to the Marconi station. They accidentally procured the services of a Liberal teamster to carry them and their luggage from the railway station to the Marconi station, a distance of three miles. Within a week the Liberal teamster was informed at the railway station that they could not give him any more goods for the R. C. R. men, as the trucking had been handed over to a Conservative teamster. Shortly after the commencement of the war, about 90 men of the 94th Militia were stationed at the Marconi Towers. Liberal merchants applied to be allowed to tender for supplies, but were refused. Every dollar's worth of supplies that these men required was bought, not by tender, but from Conservative merchants on the recommendation of the dispenser of patronage down there.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: What date was that?

Mr. KYTE: In 1914. The same thing occurred in the construction of barracks for these men. Barracks were to be built at the Marconi station for the accommodation of the 94th. Public tenders were not asked for although the official stationed in Halifax having this work in charge, was asked to have the specifications forwarded to public offices in the county. A local Conservative was given the contract without public tender, and no Liberals could procure work. Men were brought from a distance by teams daily, while just as good workmen living alongside Marconi Towers were actually refused work

on account of their politics. One old man, a Liberal in politics, with a sick wife to support, was given the contract to truck coal to the barracks from the town of Louisburg, three miles distant, at a rate of \$1.25 per ton. Last November or December, this job was taken from him, and a man about 35 years of age eligible for overseas service was given the contract at a rate of \$1.50 per ton.

I say that if there is any doubt in the mind of any hon. gentleman as to why recruiting is falling off, at all events in the province of Nova Scotia, these incidents should furnish the answer. The people are thoroughly disgusted with the manner in which employment in connection with the Militia Department has been secured, and consequently no enthusiasm can be found amongst the men, who realize that the question of winning the war—the question of the service of men in battle line—depends entirely upon the question of patronage and party and political pull. I repeat, if we are going to have a change, if a national government is to be formed it is up to the Minister of Militia and Defence to see to it that the causes for the grievances complained of in that part of the country are completely eradicated.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: My hon. friend said that this incident in connection with the furnishing of supplies for the men stationed at the Marconi Towers occurred in 1914. Now the War Purchasing Commission was not appointed until 1915. Since it commenced operations, I can say from personal knowledge that there has been no patronage in any shape or form in connection with supplies of any kind. I have no knowledge whatever of the incidents to which my hon. friend has referred.

Mr. MACDONALD: When two battalions were being recruited in my county in 1916, the patronage was at the disposal of the person who has confidence of the minister. Naturally I protested to the Minister of Militia of that day—I think it was to my hon. friend himself—that tenders should be called for. The commission had been in operation for some months at that time, and there was some suggestion that quartermasters were supposed to do this and that, but it made no difference.

When it came to a question of the doctors who were to examine the recruits, a carefully prepared list was made of the doctors in the town, and no man was allowed to examine recruits in my county unless he was on the list. There was only one Liberal doctor in that list and he was in an out of