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Two Persons

"Yesterday afternoon it was announced that two very important appointments in Mr. Gardiner's Department - one Dr. Stapleford and the other Dr. Christie of Esterhazy as Supervisor of military medical examinations; they are the sort of appointments one could expect from Gardiner, but if anything more were required to annoy and aggravate us this is the sort of thing that does it.

"Stapleford was the Principal of Regina College here. He was an uncompromising Liberal who busied himself in political matters always. The College was taken over by the University and he received a splendid pension which, I think, he is still receiving. Then he went to Victoria College as Assistant to the President. In 1937 Gardiner brought him from Toronto in connection with relief work in Saskatchewan, paying him a handsome fee for doing nothing but writing a useless report. He is a very suave gentleman, but insofar as accomplishment is concerned, he is a false alarm. Then as to Christie, his appointment is an insult to the medical men of Canada who have taken an interest in military training. He has been a very small-town Doctor for all his professional life. His chief claim to fame is that he has been the President of Liberal Associations in Gardiner's own seat.

"It is significant that in a war this new War Services Department is headed by men who have no tradition of war service at all. Gardiner, the Minister, did not serve in the last war; Davis, his Deputy Minister, did not serve in the last war; Stapleford and Christie, his last appointees, did not serve in the last war. Colonel Laflèche did serve very well, but no one has any confidence in him because of his Bren Gun record and apparently we will have a French-Canadian in charge of recruiting in this Mr. Gagnier, whoever he is.

"The only newspaper that seems alive to Gardiner's desire to establish this new Department as a political department seems to be the "Winnipeg Tribune". Mr. Bird seems to be quite aware of what the "Little Napoleon" from the West is capable of and what he has in mind. These last two appointments are straight political appointments and make you all the more sore at heart.

"This morning I am told Christie has one son of military age but not in the army."

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