

(b) "The leather is dry, containing no grease, and consequently quickly absorbs the water:

(c) "Soles and heels not being re-inforced with metal, soon wear down, especially when wet."

This condemnation of the sample boot was confirmed by practically every one of the 87 witnesses, who appeared before the Special Committee of the House of Commons. That being the case, it is not surprising that the boots manufactured from these samples failed so miserably, even under ordinary weather conditions in Canada.

ALDERSON AND PERLEY CONDEMN THE BOOTS.

Shortly after the First Expeditionary Force reached England, General Alderson, the Commander of the Canadian Troops, cabled the Government as follows:

"The boots now being issued to the Contingent are not suitable for rough wear in wet weather. Please cable instructions for purchase of boots here if we can obtain them."

Instead of cabling General Alderson the instructions for which he asked, the Minister of Militia, General Hughes, at once purchased 48,000 pairs of overshoes from a few of his "good boys" and then sent General Alderson this cablegram:

"Reference your cable re boots 48,000 pairs overshoes already shipped. Will these meet your requirements?"

To this idiotic message General Alderson sent the following sarcastic reply:

"It has been found that overshoes do not compensate for faulty construction of boots. Some pairs are useless after ten days wear. Special report is being made."

Having failed to induce the Minister of Militia to do what any man of ordinary common sense would have done under the circumstances, General Alderson evidently had a conference with Sir George Perley, Minister without Portfolio in the Borden Government who is Acting High Commissioner in London. On November 24th, 1914, Sir George Perley cabled Sir Robert Borden at Ottawa as follows:

"Authorities consider boots too light altogether; say only heavy marching boots adapted to campaigning; find general complaint on this account regarding