

Were we to lose the benefit of the work done at the request of the Minister of Agriculture? Were we to let the crops rot, abandon the land, without a whisper, without even endeavouring to secure a leave of absence or an exemption to help saving the crops? That is what was done, and, personally, for several months, I travelled from Chicoutimi to Quebec with conscripts, helping them as much as I could and I never did anything but advise them to comply with the law, even if it were a bad one. All those who were able to leave their property and their crops for two or three days without any fear of these crops being destroyed, went to Quebec to report.

We have at Chicoutimi one of the largest pulp factories in the world. We have in the person of its manager one of the foremost financiers of the country, a gentleman whose patriotism is above suspicion. Could he close the doors of his factory and thereby bring ruin, desolation and poverty to a great number of families, without at least taking the precautions necessary to make sure of having enough labour to keep his industry from falling through? That is what was done. Mr. Dubuc and myself both did all we could to prevent the farms from being abandoned, the crops going to waste and the factories closed.

Towards the end of September the military authorities or the Government believing that there were a number of draft evaders in the Chicoutimi and Lake St. John region sent a regiment of 300 men, 200 horses and 3 machine guns, together with a great number of exploiters, for rounding up the defaulters. They spent two months at Chicoutimi. What was the result? Nothing at all. I believe I am within the mark in stating that they did not apprehend more than fifty men, at least twenty of whom were arrested on the trains when they were on their way to report, young farmers who were going in to the registrar's office because they had been promised that if they reported they would receive generous treatment and would be accorded the privileges granted those who reported on time. These young men had left their farms at the first possible opportunity so as to come in and report. They were apprehended, they were brought to Quebec, and some of the youths are to-day in Siberia where they were sent against their will and in spite of the pleas entered on their behalf by their families and by the most influential residents of the district. A certain number of the others died of Influenza; finally those who remained were

set at liberty and found their way back to Chicoutimi.

This expedition, which cost thousands of dollars a day during two months, got nowhere, as far as results are concerned. The expense was altogether out of the ordinary and I intend, at some part of the session, demanding an accounting of this outlay in order to show the country the way this money was spent.

Mr. Speaker, like everybody else, we are appalled at the excessive cost of living and we blame this Government's maladministration. We are well aware that when a war is on the cost of living must necessarily increase but not out of all proportion; and we find the cause of the trouble in the pilfering of the public Treasury through scandalous contracts, like those already denounced in this House, awarded to insatiable profiteers against whom the Government has not cared to proceed. When we ponder on the colossal fortunes that certain friends of the Government have built up in the course of the war, we cannot very well feel astonished at the increased cost of living. If we are to believe the ex-Minister of Militia, one of these gentry alone made over 200 millions. This gives us an idea how a certain group is willing to throw everything into the maw of the golden calf. It is true that he who made these fantastical profits made use of the animal which fattens the quickest. Can you imagine anybody making profits like that without causing the people to suffer?

Now, Mr. Speaker, will you allow me to say a word on the subject of Woman Suffrage which the Government intends to put on the statutes. I say that if women must vote with their husbands this will evidently increase the number of votes. On the other hand they will have to frequent public meetings and clubs, and follow the newspapers, so as to form their opinions independently of their husbands; I claim that such a law is one of the most immoral enactments that the Government could be guilty of; for all your fine talk to the contrary notwithstanding woman was never created for that purpose and such a law diverts her from the beautiful role to which she was destined by the Creator, the role of loving helpmate and fond parent ready for any and every sacrifice to ensure the happiness of her husband and her children. This is a monstrous blunder and we protest against it.

Moreover, the women are asking for no such thing, especially in my county where the families are so large. You will allow me to inform you, Sir, that the average in