

of our common Canadian citizenship and the recognition of the obligation of each to serve the State.

Absurd and Idle Tales.

WILL you pardon me if I refer for a few minutes to some other absurd and idle tales which the opponents of Union Government have been circulating in this Riding, and which I hear are still passing current in some quarters. While the war was on one simply ignored all these tales, just as one ignored Mr. Bourassa's and his friends' misrepresentations. They were obviously manufactured for political purposes and were designed to divert our attention and energies from the supreme task we had in hand. Some of the stories relate to my work as Leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario before I entered the Union Government, and are, therefore, wholly irrelevant to present day issues. But as they are being circulated throughout the Riding in the hope, no doubt, of alienating support from the Government, I shall refer to a few of them as illustrations of how absurd and false they are.

One story is that when I was asked to become Leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario I required that a Committee should be appointed to raise a fund to guarantee me against any loss while engaged in work as a Provincial Leader. This statement is a pure invention. The truth is that when the Committee of Members of the Ontario Legislature waited upon me to ask me if I would accept the leadership of the Provincial Liberal Party, Mr. Bowman, the Chief Whip, stated that he was authorized to guarantee me a salary of \$5,000 a year if I would accept the leadership. There is no salary attached to the position of Leader of the Opposition in Ontario as there is at Ottawa. I agreed to consider the offer of the Leadership, but only on the condition that no salary should be attached; and during the whole time I was Leader I never received one cent of compensation from any source whatever in respect of my work as Leader. On the contrary the acceptance of the position meant the loss to me of several thousand dollars a year in diminished income, because of the time spent in the public service. I claim no special credit for this, I only mention it to show how absurd and untrue the story is. Some months after I became Leader, and after the Liberal Party in Ontario had adopted an advanced social programme, including the abolition of the bar as one of its important features, a fund was created to provide the salary and expenses of a secretary and office assistants to promote the interests and the policies of the Provincial Liberal Party under my leadership. When later an organizing secretary was appointed his work was carried on under the supervision of Mr. Bowman, Chief Whip of the Liberal Party. Needless to add, I received no compensation from that fund.

Another story, equally untrue, circulated among a different class in the community, but for the same ulterior purpose, is that Sir Robert Borden secured my consent to enter Union Government by promising Dominion Prohibition, and that I stipulated that the Government should enact Dominion Prohibition as a condition of my entering the Government. Such a stipulation would have been quite proper if I had thought it the most important issue at that time, but I did not, and the fact is that the question was never