

Libelling the Canadian Militia

When the Militia estimates were under discussion in the House of Commons during the latter part of the 1913-14 session of parliament, several leading Liberal front benchers made violently bitter and malicious attacks upon the Canadian militia. The grossest slanders and libels were indulged in by these hardened partisans.

The following extracts are taken from Hansard, the official report of the House.

F. B. Carvell, Liberal member for Carleton, N.B., and who sits in the front row of the opposition, close to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on June 1st, 1914, in the course of a violent attack upon the Canadian militia, used the following words:

"All you get in the Militia of Canada is that you teach about 25 per cent. of the men in Canada how to get drunk."

On May 7, 1914, discussing the same subject he said:

"Well Sir, the Militia is a different kind of organization from what it was when I belonged to it, if it helps anybody's morals, manners or religion."

"He (Col. Hughes) was at all, or pretty nearly all the camps last summer and he knows that there was not a camp in Canada in which liquor did not flow like water—not an officers' mess in which there was not liquor galore."