

German potato-masher bombs. We have no Webb equipment in the whole battalion. For example, you cannot instruct a man how to fix bayonets because he has no belt with frog whereby to carry the bayonet. We have no gas equipment of any kind; we have no aim correctors, no landscape targets, no aiming rests. In short, apart from rifles and bayonets, we have no equipment except what we have been able to manufacture ourselves, such as home-made bombs, bayonet standards, winter camouflage, barbed wire fencing and so on.

I would say to the Minister of National Defence that if national defence headquarters expect these units to drill and to have the men properly instructed, they must give us the necessary equipment for the purpose. Surely in one unit we could have at least one Bren gun. We could borrow at least one anti-tank gun and we could have a few gas masks and some kind of bombs and grenades. As a matter of fact, we cannot even get sufficient printed manuals. These men in the non-permanent units will have completed their training within a matter of a very few days and, as I mentioned a moment ago, the Minister of National Defence will perhaps make a statement as to what is to become of these units in the future.

I would refer to another matter that affects the militia. If my remarks in this regard are incorrect, or if the matters complained of have already been adjusted, I shall appreciate it if the minister will correct me.

The first battalion of the Hastings and Prince Edward regiment is in England. It went to France with the first division. The return of the first division from the front to England and the tragic events that followed are too well known to call for any comment, but many of these officers—in fact all the officers in the first division—lost all their personal kit. Some cabled home for money. I would point out to the government that this loss was occasioned through no fault or neglect of the officers themselves, but no provision has been made to reimburse them for the expense to which they have been put to replace the lost kit. Some such action should be taken. If the government have already remedied this situation, then I commend them for doing so.

I would also call the attention of the Minister of National Defence to the armoury in the village of Norwood. It is a first-class armoury in every respect but one that is not being used at all. In the adjoining town of Campbellford, some ten miles away, there is no armoury of any kind, but there is quartered there a company of the Midland regiment, and yet Norwood, where there is an

armoury with fine facilities, is passed up. Surely at this time full use should be made of all armouries.

The leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) yesterday referred to training centres. I would add a few remarks. Will the Minister of National Defence tell this house and the country the names of the men or the committee of men who advised the government and recommended this training scheme of thirty days? I remember very well when the mobilization bill came up for discussion last June. In *Hansard* of June 18, at page 899, the Prime Minister is reported as follows:

The point I wish to bring home at the moment is this: It is essential that we should let this country know that there is an emergent condition of very grave character, and that not an hour nor a moment should be lost in giving the government all the enabling powers that it may need to deal with this new situation.

In the same speech he said, at the same page:

... the time has come when we must mobilize to the full the whole resources of this country.

Again, in the same speech, the Prime Minister said, at page 902:

What is the sense of introducing any legislation in this parliament if what appears in black and white and in type as a statute of Canada does not mean that the government intends to give effect to what appears in the statute?

One would have thought, listening to the Prime Minister that day, that his government had some marvellous plan which would unfold itself as soon as they received the necessary legislation, but now we see the sad results. The vote on that occasion shows that of the 204 members in the house, 202 were in favour of the plan and only two were opposed. I would ask the Minister of National Defence a further question: Before his department decided on this plan, did he consult the ranking district officers throughout Canada to obtain suggestions and advice as to how the plan should be worked out?

Let us look at the scheme for a moment, a scheme which these highly paid propaganda writers can hardly find enough adjectives to describe. Certainly the artist whom the government employed to draw the comic strip which is enclosed in the registered letter that every man receives when he is called up should at least have a medal struck in his honour. I would suggest that if he draws any further military comics he get a military man to advise him, because he has made several military mistakes. I think I am quite safe in saying that nearly one hundred per cent of the men who took the first thirty-day training had not had any previous military