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O'Connor's suggestions. Precedes Borden's communication.

Interview. Canadian Press.

Sir Robert Borden, just back in Ottawa after an absence of two weeks, being asked to make a statement as to Sir Arthur Currie's recent references to the Borden Government's conduct of the war, Sir Robert said that he doubted the necessity of an answer. All of the charges save one were stale and often hitherto exploded, and that one, perhaps, was on its face so preposterous as to be unbelievable. Pressed for a statement, however, Sir Robert said - "Sir Arthur Currie avers in substance that the government, in the face of expert contrary advice, had imposed upon the Canadian troops, with resultant waste of Canadian money, the Ross rifle, an unsuitable weapon, as well as unsuitable equipment, and had sent overseas at least one hundred thousand men who were of no use to the army. He talked of the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars of Canadian money. My comment upon the charges as a whole is that Sir Arthur Currie ~~is~~ not merely did not know enough to enable him to speak authoritatively on these matters but could not know anything about them at all. Hence he fell into grievous error. I do not propose to repeat the stale story of the Ross rifle. When my Government came into power we found it the established arm of the Canadian forces, adopted after careful consideration and upon the advice of experts by Sir Wilfred Laurier's administration. We found a factory provided for its manufacture and that the only factory authorized to produce or capable of producing in sufficient quantity rifles for the Canadian troops. When the war broke out the troops had to be armed with the Ross rifle or with none. They were armed with it and continued to be armed with it until the British Government (partly because it considered the Lee Enfield a better rifle, but mainly, as I believe, because the Government, for obvious reasons, desired all the troops serving under the same high command to be armed with the like weapon) became able to and did, with the consent of the Canadian Government, substitute for the Ross rifle, in the hands of Canadian troops, the Lee Enfield. This substitution, however, involved no expense to the people of Canada. There was an exchange made, the British Government taking over such of the Ross rifles as the Canadian Government did not wish to retain for training and other purposes, and, rifle for rifle,

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