

MEMBER FOR CARLETON GETS AFTER HIS CRITICS

Mr. F. B. Carvell's Remarks about General French Grossly
Misrepresented by the "Loil" Tory Press--Offered
to Raise a Battery of Artillery When the
War Broke Out

(Hansard, March 24)

Mr. Davidson: I would like to point out to the honorable member for Carleton that it is quite usual for persons to criticise, perhaps not too wisely, persons engaged in military matters. I recall to mind a very distinguished officer who was very roundly censured and was referred to in this House as an Englishman by the name of French, but it did not hurt his reputation or injure his status at all in the British army or in the opinion of his countrymen.

Mr. Proulx: I am glad that the facts have been elicited and that the honorable minister has acknowledged that the French-Canadians have done their duty as well as those of other nationalities have done. I can corroborate what my honorable friend the member for Carleton has just said. I have read in many English newspapers in this country allegations that the French-Canadians have been very remiss in enlisting and in doing their duty towards the empire. The other day The Saturday Post of Winnipeg, cast a reproach upon the French-Canadians for not enlisting. What I did not like last fall was that the minister was too lax in acknowledging the fact that the French-Canadians had enlisted in large numbers. The first time that he admitted the fact was when a deputation from Montreal, composed of Dr. Mizanin and some of the officers of the 65th Regiment, came here to ask permission to organize a brigade. Before that, some important newspapers like The Evening News of Montreal, had stated that very few French-Canadians had enlisted. There was talk of an election at that time and reflections were cast on my right honorable friend the leader of the opposition. Endeavors were made to create the impression throughout the country, that the French-Canadians were not loyal and that my right honorable friend the leader of the opposition could not be trusted to form a government while the empire was at war. My honorable friend the minister of militia and defence had a knowledge of the facts all the time and he never admitted them until he was forced to do so when the deputation came here.

Mr. Carvell: I am somewhat obliged to my honorable friend the member for Annapolis (Mr. Davidson) for referring to a remark which I made in the House a year ago. Fortunately I have before me every word that I said I am going to read it now to the House and I hope that my honorable friend will be daring enough to go back to his newspapers and ask them if they will publish every word instead of the garbled reports which they have been publishing throughout this country for the last six months. Perhaps my honorable friend the minister does not know it, but in one of the campaign sheets which his friends sent out as far back as November last was a report of the statement that I made in the House on the first day of

June. I cast no reflections whatever upon the honor, ability or integrity of Field Marshal Sir John French. I was discussing in this House on the first day of June last the general staff of the minister and I had discussed it in this House before, and the general staff that is in existence now was not the product nor the result of the conduct of the present minister. I condemned it before he became minister, and I have condemned it since and I condemn it now. I am not going into any discussion of it; but I think, if I wanted any justification for my remarks a year ago, the results of the last six months have amply justified my opinion. That, however, is a matter which we may discuss later on in this debate. For the benefit of my honorable friend from Annapolis, I



F. B. CARVELL, M.P.

will read what I said about Sir John French. My honorable friend will find my remarks on page 1,620 of the Revised Hansard under date of June 1, 1914. I sent out a few moments ago for the Unrevised Hansard, but I was told that the distribution office did not have it. I can assure my honorable friend that there has not been an "I" dotted or a "t" crossed between the unrevised and the revised. This is what I said about Sir John French: "I am glad to hear the minister admit that he can get along with a smaller engineer service corps, although he refers only to the regular corps and not to the militia."

"In my humble judgment he could get along without a whole lot of militia engineer companies that he has at present. The principal cause of the trouble with the minister and his top-heavy militia is the report of a general by name of French, who came to this country some years ago, and in my judgment his visit was one of the greatest misfortunes that has befallen Canada."

Some honorable members. Hear, hear!

Mr. Carvell: Just at this point my friend's friends all over Canada stop. They have not given the rest of what I said, but I am going to give it now. I know my friend from Annapolis is the last man who would have the manhood to get up in his constituency and repeat what I am about to read.

Some honorable members: "Order. Mr. Carvell: No 'Order' about it. He deserves this: (Reading)

"General French may be all right from the English standpoint. He is a general of distinction but he is a man who has been educated entirely along different lines from those which the conditions in Canada present. His life has been spent soldiering, he is a born soldier."

Do honorable gentlemen opposite find any fault with that? Do they send that out in their campaign literature? Not by any means. (Reading)

"and he does not believe a man has any business working on a farm or in a factory or anywhere else except a few who should work in order to make money to keep the soldiers. If you had half the people in the empire in the army you would not have enough to satisfy General French. I told the late minister of militia publicly and privately that in adopting the ridiculous and unreasonable report made by this gentleman, he had committed a great mistake. It might be all right if General French was reporting on the conditions in Bulgaria or Russia or Germany, or even in Italy, but when it comes to a country like Canada where there is not a possibility of trouble, his ideas are ridiculous. There is no more possibility of a war

breaking out between Canada and any country in the world than there is of the minister of militia or myself committing suicide between now and tomorrow morning."

Some honorable members: Oh, oh! Mr. Carvell: Let my friends just have patience. The trouble is they have not read what I stated. (Reading)

"There might, of course, be a possibility of the empire being at war and we might find it our duty to volunteer, as in the case of the war in South Africa."

The empire war has come. And we have volunteered. And I want to tell my honorable friend from Annapolis that within a fortnight after the war broke out I personally went to the minister of militia and volunteered my services as an officer and told him that if he would allow me I would raise a battery of artillery and would take it. I went back to him before Christmas and repeated my request. I wonder if my friend from Annapolis has done as well as that. Why, he would run so that you could not see his heels for dust. Talk about the man from Annapolis volunteering to fight anything! The idea is preposterous. No wonder he grins like a Cheshire cat over there. I hope he will have the manhood to go back to his constituency and read what I say here tonight and read also what I said on the first of June last. Then I want him to be man enough to offer his services or try to do some little thing to maintain this empire in this great war and not come here and be small enough to throw mud at the men who have tried to do something for the empire's cause.

Mr. Marcell: I desire to ask the minister of militia a question for information with regard to the enlisting of French-Canadians. I understand that in the first contingent there was a very large proportion of French-Canadians. What was the number?

Major General Hughes: We have never made up the statement on the lines of nationality.

Mr. Marcell: I understand there were fully 2,500.

Major General Hughes: I do not know. We have not taken the figures that way.

Mr. Marcell: I understand that three regiments were being recruited. How many would that represent?

Major General Hughes: That would mean three thousand men besides those who went in the first contingent or with the various artillery corps, the medical corps, the army service corps—oh, they have done splendidly.

Mr. Marcell: There were many French-Canadians from New Brunswick and a lot from the Northwest.

Major General Hughes: Not that I am impressed by the sympathy of my honorable friend from Prescott (Mr. Proulx), but I have always been proud of my fellow countrymen, the French-Canadians, since the outbreak of this war. They know that I have said behind scenes what I state openly that I am proud of the splendid way our men have come forward. For the first contingent the country boys all over had no opportunity to enlist, for it was raised very rapidly; the news hardly reached the remote settlements before the regiments were full. I passed a French-Canadian station between here and Valcartier and saw on the platform a lot of very young men. I asked if any of them had gone to the front. They said "No, we can't go." "Why?" "No men are being taken from here."

I said: "All you have to do is to enlist." But they did not know how to enlist. I had the matter brought to the attention of the officers and inside a week fourteen of those boys joined the corps. There was a splendid response wherever the boys had an opportunity. The same was true of Ontario among the English-speaking population. But they had really no opportunity to get into the first contingent.

Mr. Marcell: I take it that, from what the minister had said, allowing for the number who volunteered in the regiments that are being armed, the men enlisting in the Maritime Provinces and the West and the men who went with the medical corps and other bodies, close upon ten thousand French-Canadians must have enlisted for this war.

Major General Hughes: I could not give the figures but there are three thousand infantry men and four or five thousand others and probably more.

NO INCREASE UNTIL
AFTER NEXT ELECTION

Ottawa, March 29—In the Senate today on the government's proposal to increase the Senate membership to 104 by bringing up the western group to 49 members. Senator Bostock, opposition leader, offered the same amendment as last year, that take place until after the next general election or at the same time as the Commons redistribution comes into effect.

The amendment was carried by 27 to 16. The tariff resolution was reported from committee without amendment and the \$100,000,000 War Appropriation Bill was given second reading.

A movement for the cultivation of vacant lots by the unemployed was started by the Mayor of Newark, N.J. The Russians have also put the "win" in Bukovina.

EASTER 1915

Easter always means a Season of rejoicing,
what could make people happier than
a visit to our Greenhouses to see

Our Easter FLOWERS

Potted Plants of all kinds in bloom for Easter. New shipment of Table Ferns from New York. Don't forget our Palms and Azaleas are a direct shipment from Belgium. Easter Lillies, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Tulips, Lily of Valley, Spirea, Azaleas, Dainty Potted Roses, (climbing) Pink, White, Garnet. Genestia, Prumbias in all shades and covered with bloom. Dainty Floral Baskets filled with a variety of Spring Flowers.

In Cut Bloom we have a large and varied assortment, viz:-

Roses of all kinds, American Beauties, Killarney, White Killarney, Killarney Queen, Lady Hillingdon, Richmond, Maryland, Taft, Sunburst, Ophelia, etc. Violets, Valleys, Carnations, Long Stems, the most perfect Carnation ever grown, Dark Red, White, Deep Pink, Light Pink, Scarlet and variegated.

Lettuce, Celery, Parsley, etc., etc.

The Greenhouses are now in a profusion of bloom, we would like every one to visit them this year and see for themselves.

Ada M. Schleyer
CHARLOTTE ST.

PHONE 217

1915-Spring-1915

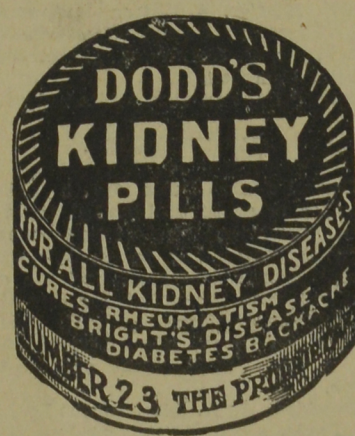
just received from the English Markets fall and winter shipment of
Cloths consisting of

Spring Overcoatings, Spring
Suits and Pantings.

In all the latest shades in colorings and patterns. All of which will be made up in the very latest styles to suit customers. Workmanship and fit guaranteed. At Old Prices—No War Prices.

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Jacob H. Schiff sees the end of the war in the autumn.