

LIBERAL WHIP HAS MAN'S PART IN WAR

Mr. C. M. Bowman, M.P., Although Admitted Un- necessary, Answers in Legislature the Attack of Col. J. A. Currie in West Simcoe By-election—Set- tlement of Soldiers

Mr. C. M. Bowman, Liberal Whip in the Legislature, yesterday completely disposed of the attack made on his ancestry in the West Simcoe by-election by Colonel J. A. Currie, M.P. He did not feel it necessary to waste any time so far as defending his loyalty was concerned, or anything of that kind. He would not bother about what Colonel Currie had said, but Premier Hearst and Hon. I. B. Lucas, Attorney-General, had appeared on the same platform and apparently countenanced the Colonel's reckless statements.

Makes Friends by Attack.

"From the personal standpoint I have been more than amply repaid in connection with these attacks made by Colonel Currie and the charges that he practically made that I was a pro-German agent. I have been more than amply repaid for these attacks by the many expressions of resentment against such tactics which I have received from the Conservatives of the county of Bruce, who have known me for so many years.

Man's Part in War.

"I leave the matter of my record as to whether I have taken a man's part in connection with the war to the Conservatives of Bruce county connected with the Patriotic Fund, to the Conservatives connected with the Bruce County Preparedness League, and to the men of the 160th (Bruce county) Battalion, from the Colonel down to the humblest private. So far as anything that I may have been able to do in connection with the war is concerned, all I have to say is that when the real history and full record of the war comes to be written I know that my record will not suffer by way of comparison with that of Colonel Currie.

Duty to Legislature.

"The main object I have in bringing up this matter is because of the fact that I think it a duty which I owe to the Legislature in connection with the manner in which my loyalty has been impugned on account of my ancestry, that this Legislature should have the benefit of some of the facts in connection with the history of that ancestry of which not only I am exceptionally proud, but every descendant in this Province is proud."

Interesting to Orangemen.

The member for West Bruce quoted from Eby's "History of Waterloo Township," in which, he said, some very interesting facts were brought out in connection with his early ancestry. "I have no doubt they will prove of interest to every member of this House. I am only sorry the member for East Simcoe (Captain J. I. Hartt) is not here to fully appreciate the magnificent ancestry from which I have sprung." He pointed out that the first Bowman of whom they had trace was born in Switzerland in 1681, and when a very young man he, in company with his parents, moved to Holland where they had promise of protection from William, Prince of Orange, afterwards William III. of

England. He was satisfied this would be of special interest to the member for East Simcoe. The family later moved to Pennsylvania, U.S.A., and then to Canada previous to the war of 1812, or shortly after.

Proud Record in Ontario.

In Ontario they had made a record of which they were proud, and the astounding thing to him was that any public man would have the nerve and the hardihood to impugn the honor and the loyalty of a descendant of people who for centuries have been standing for full religious and civil liberty."

Mr. Bowman's statement was warmly applauded, and after the House adjourned several Cabinet Ministers and Conservative members crossed the floor to shake hands with him and express their admiration of his excellent qualities.

Helping Soldiers.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson introduced a bill providing for the agricultural settlement of soldiers, which will give the Government power to take over land for the settlement of soldiers and to spend money in training them and giving them a start with live stock, machinery, implements, etc.

Mr. William Proudfoot (Huron) introduced a bill to allow municipalities to adopt preferential voting.

Nickel Commission Costly.

A question by Mr. Hartley Dewart (Southwest Toronto) elicited the information that the Nickel Commission was appointed on September 9th, 1915, and that down to the 1st of February, 1917, it has cost the Province \$49,499. The salary of the Chairman had amounted to \$25,500, and travelling expenses had amounted to \$14,604, the Commission having visited several countries, including the U.S.A., Great Britain, Norway and New Caledonia.

Motions by Messrs. Sam Carter and Chas. M. Bowman relating to taxes paid by the Nickel Companies, the purchase of machine guns and townships established and lands sold on the T. & N. O. Railway line were carried without discussion.

Minister Touchy on Nickel Taxes.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson, however, was not communicative when Mr. Dewart asked about the taxes paid by the nickel companies for the years 1915 and 1916. The Minister's actions caused his most intimate colleague, Hon. Mr. McGarry, to giggle. Mr. Ferguson admitted that he knew what Mr. Dewart wanted, but he argued that the Southwest Toronto member had not put the question in plain English. Mr. Dewart told him later that he did not think he was so obtuse.

Sequel to Leaders' Clash

The hot controversy in the Legislature on Thursday night between Sir William Hearst and Mr. Rowell over the point whether the Liberal leader had notified the Premier of his intention to move a woman's suffrage resolution had a curious sequel yesterday.

Mr. Rowell had stated that he had given a copy of the resolution to a page to hand to the Premier, but the latter said he never received it. It now develops that the page, who was a green hand, took the paper to the House postoffice in another part of the building and it could not reach its destination until long after it was needed.