

LIES BRANDED BY LEGISLATURE

Reflections on Sobriety of
Canadian Troops Are
Hotly Criticized

STATEMENTS DISPROVEN

Major Hartt, M.P.P., Gives First-
hand Account of Conditions
in Fighting Lines.

Statements made by Capt. George Bailey of the A.M.C. at the Dominion Alliance convention in Massey Hall on Wednesday, in which he cast serious reflections on the sobriety of the Canadian troops, were roundly condemned in the Legislature yesterday. The assertions were branded as absolute lies, and the maker of them a blackguard. The Prime Minister regretted that the laws of the Province would not permit the Government to deal with Capt. Bailey, but as the officer is only amenable to the military authorities he felt sure proper action would be taken without delay.

Major J. I. Hartt of East Simcoe, who recently returned from the front, brought the matter of Capt. Bailey's remarks to the House before the orders of the day were called. The statements, as they appeared in the press, were absolute lies, said Major Hartt. Drunkenness at the front is so serious a crime that it is punishable with death. Capt. Bailey, apparently, did not know the conditions, and made his statement on the strength of what he had been told by some other officer.

Conditions as They Are.

"Whoever is responsible for these statements should be, and I have no doubt will be, punished," he said. "The effect this will have on mothers and fathers is enormous. I am here to-day to disprove these statements. I know whereof I speak. The boys in the army are just as safe and as free from drunkenness as the boys are at home at their own firesides. (Applause.) The man certainly must be deranged. He must have lost his head, although I know Massey Hall is getting to be quite a favorite place for hot-heads and men who want to say hot things."

Major Hartt said the civil authorities should take Capt. Bailey in charge and the military authorities would deal with him, as by his utterances he committed a breach of the King's rules and regulations. The member for East Simcoe had no doubt the offending officer would

lose his commission, and he thought he was deserving of the severest punishment possible.

Prime Minister's Indictment.

"If he came within our law I have no hesitation in saying we would take action against him," declared Sir William Hearst. "The fathers and mothers of this Province who have sons over there have enough anxiety to bear without their problems and burdens being added to by absolutely false statements. I am not speaking at random when I say those statements were slander." The Prime Minister said he spent six weeks in England and France and he made it his duty to study the great question.

Proud as he was of the fighting record of the men at the front, he said he was prouder of their record for the way they met temptations. The record in England was that the Canadian men were sober and moral, and a Nursing Sister had said to him: "Your Canadians are always gentlemen." Y.M.C.A. officers in charge of the Maple Leaf Clubs had told him the same thing. Col. Cecil G. Williams, a Methodist minister who spent some time at the front last year, paid a similar tribute to the men, said Sir William Hearst. The same testimony was borne out in correspondence from members of his own family and other officers in England and France.

Spirited Repudiation.

"I regret indeed that any man should have made this statement, and as Leader of this House and a public man of this country," said Sir William, "I want to repudiate it in the strongest language possible."

"The statement was made in a very public manner," said Mr. William Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader. He had intended bringing it up if Major Hartt had not done so. "What I can't understand is that when the question was brought up at the meeting he relied upon a statement made to him by some other officer. He was not man enough to give out the name of the officer who had made the statement to him. (Applause.) His failure to do that branded his statement as one particularly false and one to which no consideration ought to be given."

An Unfortunate Episode.

Mr. Proudfoot was satisfied that the people of the Province would pay no attention to the remarks if it were not that this man was dubbed "Captain." He thought it was a misnomer on the part of the Prime Minister to call the officer a gentleman. He preferred to call him a blackguard.

"I withdraw the expression," laughed Sir William.

Canadians at the front, said the Opposition Leader, are treated with respect. A couple of days ago he received a letter from his son, who was a Union Government scrutineer, who said that of the 15th Battalion not one officer or man came to cast his vote who was under any influence of liquor.

Like all slanderous statements, they are easily made, said Mr. J. C. Elliott of West Middlesex, but they are somewhat difficult to disprove, and they create an impression which it is sometimes impossible to completely obliterate.

ASK GRANT FOR ELK LAKE ROAD TO GOWGANDA

DEPUTATION WAITS ON PROV.
MINISTERS WITH REQUEST
FOR GRADED ROAD.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)
Cobalt, Feb. 28.—This week a deputation of mining men from this district met the Hon. Frank Cochrane, M.P. for the district of Temiskaming; the Hon. Howard G. Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, and Thomas W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines. The purpose of the deputation was to endeavor to secure financial assistance from the Government for the building of a graded road from Elk Lake to Gowganda. A grant of \$200,000, amounting to approximately \$7,000 per mile, was asked for.

In view of the fact that developments in the Gowganda field have been very satisfactory during the past year and a half or so, and that more extensive operations would no doubt follow, if better transportation facilities were afforded, the deputation met with more or less success in their interview. It is understood they received assurances that something would be done right away to relieve the situation, and although the amount asked (\$200,000) was quite a large sum under the present financial strain, due to the war, it was intimated that possibly a grant of \$100,000 could be made for the purpose.

Representing the various mines were: For the O'Brien, Messrs. Dickenson & Crowe; for the Reeves-Doble, Messrs. Christopherson, Ward, Roche and Dr. Finnessey of Buffalo; for the South Bay Power Company, Mr. Aulit. Among other members of the deputation were Messrs. J. H. Black, Dr. C. W. Haentschel, N. L. Foley and Mr. Maccarty.