

Equip Force for Finns, Hunter's Plea to House

(By RALPH HYMAN.)

(Staff Writer, The Globe and Mail.)

Deficits or no deficits, Colonel Fraser Hunter wants the Hepburn Government to dig down into its treasury and hand over \$1,000,000 to send a Canadian volunteer division to Finland.

The voice of the militant colonel was raised in the Legislature yesterday when he urged the Govern-



Colonel Hunter.

Hon. Harry Nixon later summed up the Government's attitude in these words: "We are not conducting a war. It

is a matter for the Federal Government."

But Colonel Hunter, one-time Bengal Lancer, who has served his Empire in sun-baked lands across the seas, isn't concerned with the distinctions between Federal and Provincial jurisdictions. He believes democracy is in peril, and that should be enough to bring quick action, whether it be Federal, Provincial or municipal.

The veteran soldier revealed to the House that he has become a recruiting officer for the volunteer contingent. He also told the Assembly that he had turned down a Federal nomination in a constituency because he wanted to do his bit toward aiding Finland.

Night after night Colonel Fraser Hunter, with the energy and enthusiasm of a man forty years his junior, goes about the task of raising help for Finland. He feels it is a sacred cause, just as important as any other phase of the war effort.

"Let Finland die and we may well ask ourselves what we are fighting for," he said grimly last night as he prepared to spend a busy evening speaking to various organizations in behalf of that country.

"All this talk about deficits doesn't impress me one bit," he continued. "Democracy is being strangled across the sea and we sit here and talk about it being a Federal matter. We can spare the money. Thousands of Canadians want to do their bit and it takes money to equip and train them and send them over."

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Vehement Appeal.

Colonel Hunter would give all he possessed to be a quarter of a century younger. He would be in the thick of the fight himself if he could drop "just a few years" from his shoulders. But while the relentless march of the years have made him obsolete in the active military sense, there is nothing to stop him from serving the principles which he believes are endangered.

"The fate of Europe may be decided on the battlefields of Finland," he declared. "What are we waiting for? Let us help the brave Finns show the world that democracy is a real and vital way of life and that men, of their own free will, have come thousands of miles to lay down their lives if need be, in defense of that principle. Are we going to wait until the war gets on our own doorstep?"

To the Legislature, Colonel Hunter made a vehement appeal. He told the House a division of Canadian volunteers was ready to go but lacked funds. A million dollars would enable the committee handling the enlistments to send this division overseas.

"If Finland is destroyed," he warned, "you may never have another Budget to present in this Province. I would urge you to show you mean business by granting a substantial credit. No man is being accepted as a volunteer unless he has first been rejected by the Canadian military authorities. The work of Canadian commercial fliers in the far north and the similarity of climate in Canada and Finland render Canadian volunteers particularly suitable for service in Finland."

Won't Stop Trying.

The member for St. Patrick won't get his million dollars, nor any other sum of money, at least not from the Legislature. But that won't stop him from trying. Outside the political field he is a one-man crusade on behalf of democracy. He spends his nights and days interviewing, appealing, planning and scheming to raise the sinews of war. There is a gleam in his eyes and a ring in his voice as he goes about his job.

Politics in wartime have little appeal to the former Bengal Lancer. In the days of uneasy peace before the outbreak of war, he would voice views on politics which showed him to be a rebel at heart against conventional pattern laid down for a back-bencher.

And there was a time when he would go back in his mind over the years he has spent fighting and campaigning in many lands and tell stories of adventure that had lost nothing in scope with the passing of the years.

But all that is past. The days and nights are too short for everything the colonel wants to do. Deficits or no deficits, he firmly believes that Ontario should come to the aid of Finland with something more than kind words.