Drew Flatly Denies Claims By Howe, Blames Minister For 'Fiasco At Hong Kong'

Services Always Available, Says Tory Leader —Says Every Public Charge Proved

"My services have been and still are available in any capacity to the Dominion Government," Col. George A. Drew, Ontario Conservative leader, responds to the charge in the House of Commons, of Munitions Minister Howe that he had not offered his services to the government in a war effort. He said Mr. Howe knew that his services had been available since the war started.

Declining to enter into an argument with Mr. Howe on the subject however, Col. Drew said: "The facts speak for themselves." As to Mr Howe's statement that Col. Drew had never proven any of his charges the Conservative leader recalled the Hong Kong inquiry as refuting Mr. Howe's statement.

"Everything I said about that dreadful fiasco and the callous indifference of the men responsible for sending them there was proved correct to the last detail," Col. Drew said.

DOUBTS REMOVED

"What makes Mr. Howe's present attack doubly contemptible is that the Canadian government now has reports of what actually took place leaving no doubt of the pitiful plight of those brave lads for whose welfare Mr. Howe showed so little concern."

Col. Drew said he found it difficult to understand how his military service has anything to do with the Shipshaw power development "even in Mr. Howe's brain."

"I am sure Mr. Howe does know that my services have been available ever since war broke out, and still are," Col. Drew asserted. "When he says I have not made good with charges that I have made, that is something I will certainly discuss in detail when opportunity presents itself.

WAS BADLY WOUNDED

"I have made no charge in any public statement which has not been proven correct."

He refers to the Hong Kong episode for which he shared responsibility as one of the members of the War Committee, which sent untrained and unequipped men to death and imprisonment with full knowledge of the probability of disaster.

"I have no doubt Mr. Howe's wholly unjustified attack is prompted by the fact that everything I said about that incident was proved true at the inquiry," Col. Drew added.

Col. Drew's friends point out that due to a badly wounded arm in the last war he would be unfit for active military duty now. At the time he was charged under the Defense of Canada regulations he sustained an injury to the wounded arm the day he appeared in police court, and carried on his trial under great difficulty.

VETERANS INDIGNANT

Veterans of the first war expressed indignation that Mr. Howe, who had not served in the last war and was of military age, should attack a veteran who did serve and was severely wounded.

Col. Drew, they point out, spent many months in hospital recuperating from shapnel wounds in the left arm, which is now practically useless. He has been identified with both the Canadian Legion and Canadian Corps, and was vice-president of the Dominion Command Canadian Legion when he entered politics.

They say Col. Drew has repeatedly offered his services to the Minister of Defense, including the present Col. J. L. Ralston.

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