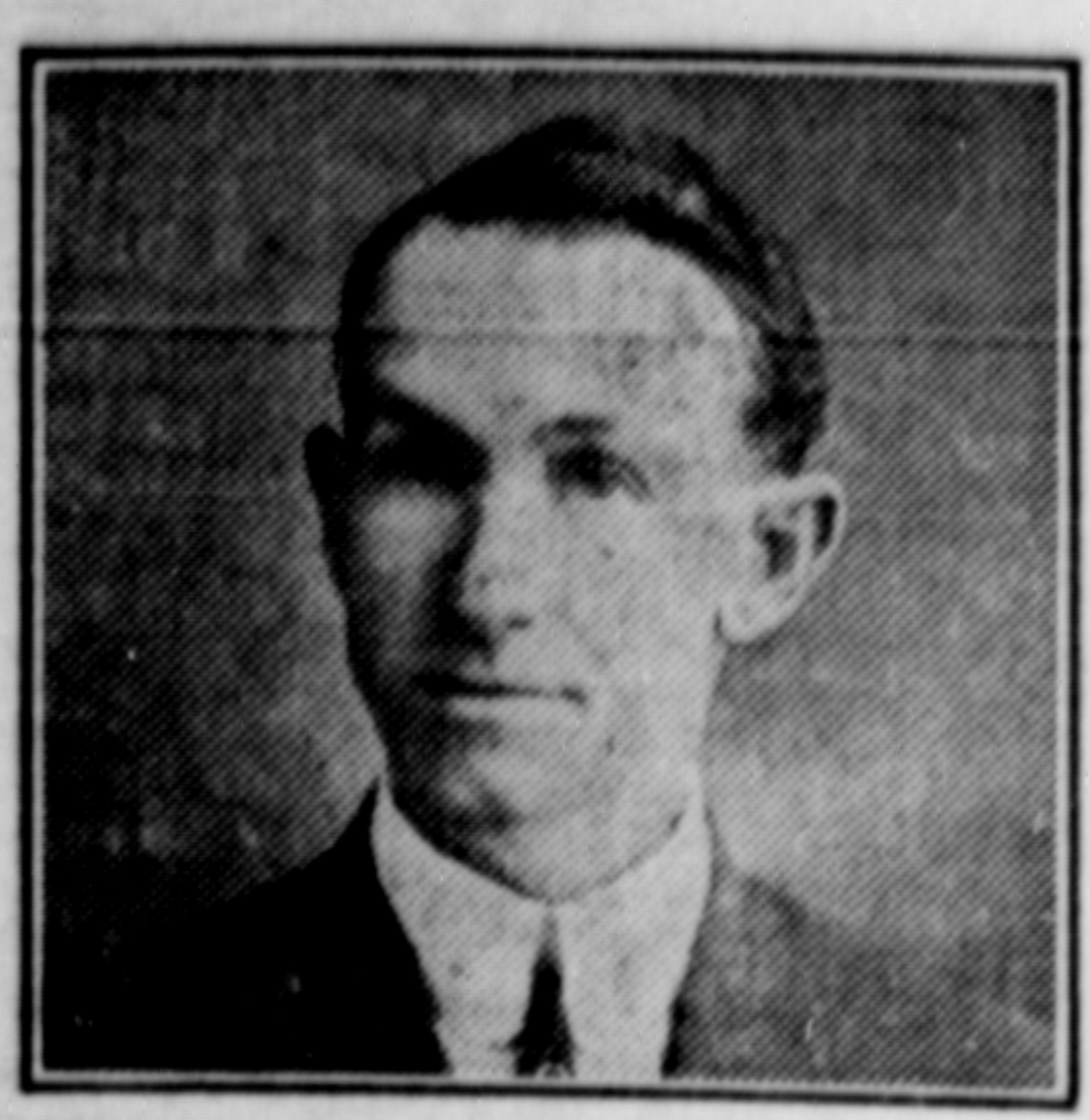


MINERAL ACT. Certificate of Improvements. NOTICE. Homestead No. 1, and Sun-... (text continues)

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D. A. WHITE, Esq. 21 WALLACE AVE., TORONTO, Dec. 22nd, 1913.

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COMMITTEE ON SOLDIERS' BOOTS NOT BLIND BUT WILL NOT SEE

LIKELY TO BE A MINORITY REPORT—A LARGE AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE POINTS TO BAD ARTICLE—MANUFACTURE CONTINUED LONG AFTER EXPOSURE.

(BY H. F. GADSBY.)

Ottawa, March 30.—In a way the Shoe Committee is a solemn humbug. It sees before it every days bags, heaps, stacks, pyramids, mountains of rotten shoes...

It reminds me of the colored lady whose husband caught her rifling his pockets in the middle of the night. 'Does you believe yo' eyes,' she asked, 'or does you believe yo' honey?'

The public naturally brushes aside the Militia Department inquiry into shoes as not quite relevant. When a flock of colonels is asked to report on what their fellow colonels in the department have been up to they return a soft answer of course.

Among other things the minority report will probably point out that the manufacturers were primarily to blame. Specifications or no specifications they knew for what purpose the shoes were being made...

Canada was not niggling about the price of soldiers' shoes. What this country expected was that her sons would go into battle well shod, and that whatever risks they ran from German bullets...

Rotten is a relative term as applied to shoes. What is a good shoe for dancing is a rotten shoe for work in the trenches, but neither the Militia Department nor the shoe manufacturers seem to have grasped the point.

Some manufacturers seemed to think that a soul full of patriotism would make up for a sole full of cork and paper. A superintendent in one of the shoe factories

gave touching evidence along this line. He told how the employees were called together a day after an order for thirty-two thousand pairs were landed, and how two of the directors addressed them on the high privilege which was theirs in making shoes for the men who were to bleed and die for their country.

The minority report cannot fail to draw attention to the fact that not a single manufacturer lived up to all the specifications. Some manufacturers lived up to some of the specifications, others lived up to others, and some lived up to none.

Some of these shoes fell apart in five days, others wore out before the men reached Valcartier, some survived the sea voyage, the Atlantic ocean not being a favorable spot for walking...

though he is General Alderson's sense of humor was aroused. He replied that all the overshoes in the world would not remedy the original defects in bad shoes.

At some concentration camps the shoes were so bad that the men were unable to parade, much less drill in them. At Halifax whole companies maneuvered with shingles on their feet, other companies with their feet tied up in bags.

Officers and privates, in large numbers, have been examined by the committee. They have nothing to lose by telling the truth and they have invariably testified that the shoes were bad.

These disinterested witnesses are in marked contrast to the shoe inspectors appointed by this government. The minority report will hardly leave the subject without paying its respects to the shoe inspectors.

(Continued on Page 4)

WATER NOTICE.

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