

**WINDOW-DRESSING APPOINTMENT
IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.**

In the 1940 elections W. L. M. King convinced the Canadian electors that it would be a mistake on their part to change horses while crossing the stream. In 1944 he himself changes his defense wheel-horse while going through the turgid torrent of the reinforcement crisis. It is not the first case in which the horse has a better knowledge of the right road than the man in the driver's seat.

Mr. King has parted with Mr. Ralston rather than follow the advice of the minister who has had charge of military affairs and who has just returned from a tour overseas where he was enabled to ascertain at first hand what conditions are. Both Mr. King and Mr. Ralston have said that if the time came when it was necessary to use the home defense forces for overseas duty, they would be so used. Mr. Ralston has now resigned because, as Mr. King has explained, he felt that he should retain a position he had taken right along. Mr. King, apparently, feels under no compulsion to do so.

Introducing Hon. Andrew G. L. McNaughton as Mr. Ralston's successor as Minister of Defense, Mr. King declared that he felt the appointment would bring the greatest measure of confidence to the men overseas, to the fathers, mothers, relatives and friends of the men overseas, and to the people of Canada. It is unfortunate that General McNaughton, who did a good job in training the Canadian forces in Britain, should be utilized as window dressing in this fashion by the most adept of political window dressers.

It is nonsense to talk of inspiring confidence by any appointment to take the place of a Minister of Defense who has resigned because, after a study of conditions on the ground, he is convinced that the reinforcement set-up is faulty. The men who are fighting overseas know what conditions are, and will not be inspired with confidence in the Government which is responsible for those conditions by the mere addition to the cabinet of a man who is favorably known to them. They will not necessarily be convinced that a man who has been out of touch with the army through all the developments since D-day is cognizant of conditions as they have been since that event.

If Hon. Mr. McNaughton's conduct of his department is to place the interests of overseas men foremost and to maintain the war effort in the best manner possible he can pay no less regard than paid by Mr. Ralston to the necessity for adequate and fully trained reinforcements. In that event all that Mr. King gains by letting Mr. Ralston go is delay. However convenient to Mr. King it may be to delay the issue and however favorable to his political ambitions, it is something the people of Canada will not condone.

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