

The Kingston Standard, which has been investigating the plot among German prisoners at Port Henry, near there, makes some remarkable statements in that connection. The paper asserts that the foreigners plucked up heart when Parliament sat, and some of the newspapers began concurrently to attack the Government. It asserts:

“Significantly enough the cry of graft was one of the very first things the prisoners seized upon—not only seized upon but actually delighted in. Time and again they would read aloud, in the presence of their guards, and with great gusto and delight, the accounts of the alleged graft, while a little later on they began to make complaints of the quality of the food that was being given them although that food was of the very best. Finally, several more bold than the other, coolly and deliberately told one of the officers that it was all a case of graft—that the reason their food was poor was because the Government was tainted with graft. To add to the seriousness of the matter several prisoners actually passed the remark that they were surprised that Canadian soldiers would enlist at all under a Government that was so dishonest and corrupt.”

There was, of course, nothing wrong with the food. Out of the complaints arose a meeting and attempt at escape which jeopardized the lives of the guards, but was ineffectual. If the enemy Germans in Canada extract so much comfort, inspiration and “will to escape” from the exaggerated reports being circulated, no doubt the Huns at the front and in Berlin would take heart as well. The answer to such nonsense was delivered in Flanders last week; it is re-echoed all over the world today. It is nonsense to assume that because a few—and very few at that—dishonest dealers in war supplies have drawn upon themselves the attention of the Justice Department, that our men are not properly equipped for the stern business of war; or that there is any weakening of their resolution to stay the Germans arising out of the charges. The German prisoners, who attempted to escape from Fort Henry know better now, and their ringleaders are in danger of being shot for their acts. The incident is useful as a warning to those who think it is good politics to bandy such fulmination in war time. It is poor policy and worse patriotism.