

TORONTO TELEGRAM
MAY 13 1948

**ARMY DISCIPLINE
SHOULD APPLY TO ALL RANKS.**

Although, in the words of the chief prosecutor at the court martial of Brig. J. F. A. Lister, all connected with the court would rejoice at an acquittal, his acquittal, if on the ground that he was guilty of nothing that was not common practice among the senior officers of the Canadian army, could hardly be regarded as the basis for national rejoicing. It would have been far more satisfactory if the court martial had established beyond doubt that the conduct of the brass hats was consonant with appreciation of their responsibility.

There is biblical authority for the idea that it is improper to muzzle the ox that treads out the corn, and there can be no inclination to deny men with fine war records adequate opportunities to enjoy the amenities of life in a period of relaxation. But there appears to have been a looseness in connection with the provision of quarters for senior officers that is altogether out of line with the best military procedure. While rank brings a certain freedom of action, it is in the interests of the army that this freedom shall be exercised within the bounds of discipline quite as rigid as that enforced in the case of a private. The accusations and counter-accusations in the Lister case suggest that discipline at the higher levels is not what it should be.

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