

local papers has put it, that on this question the Government is only out on suspended sentence. Not until the men have reached the unit they belong to will the Government have kept its promise and carried out its Order in Council. The men who have been giving trouble have been out of hand for some time, and as they progress from one act of insubordination to another they will become harder to handle. Men in that frame of mind should be dealt with immediately. Even if the Government has to take the responsibility for shooting some of them it must maintain military control. My honourable friend shakes his head.

Hon. Mr. KING: I am surprised at your suggesting such possibilities at this stage.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: What is the matter with my suggestion?

Hon. Mr. KING: I am surprised.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: You don't like it?

Hon. Mr. KING: I am not worrying about it, but I am surprised that you, a former officer, should at this time be suggesting anything of the kind. I think the suggestion is both unfair and unwise.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: It discloses that there is something wrong in the control of these men.

Hon. Mr. KING: It is among your people, then.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: You will not improve the situation by refusing to recognize it.

Hon. Mr. KING: Would it not be better for you as an officer, to go to the Department and advise the officers there of your fears, instead of disclosing them to us?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I have nothing to do with the Department. If you do not care to listen to me, well and good, but I am saying what I have to say. I believe these men are going to cause more trouble. Their officers should have dealt with them on the spot. Apparently something has intervened to prevent their taking proper action. I know if I had been in command of those men I would have felt pretty much ashamed of myself if I had allowed the trouble to develop. I would very much rather take responsibility for drastic action than allow a thousand men odd to march around defying the Government and assaulting their officers. It is, I repeat, a serious matter, and I cannot understand anybody trying to laugh it off. It must be dealt with by those who realize that it is a serious matter.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH:

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: As a matter of information, may I ask the honourable senator whether he attaches any importance to the statement made earlier by the commanding officers to the effect that the response of these men of the Home Defence Army to compulsion for enlistment was simply this: "We are conscripted. We are not enlisting voluntarily. If the Government want to send us to another place, let them send us; we are willing to go." That was the point of view of the men as expressed by commanding officers favouring the compulsory sending of N.R.M.A. men overseas. Everything that my honourable friend has said about the attitude of these men seems to be contrary to the reports made by commanding officers. I should like to know what importance he attaches to those reports.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: My mind goes back to how they got their information. Was a meeting held at which there was a show of hands to a definite proposition? Or did the officers on the morning parade question some of the men who said, "If we are compelled to go we will go"? How was the information obtained? I go to that right away. Somebody out there said, "If these men are conscripted they will go." All right, how did he find that out? Was it by a show of hands from the battalion, something that would bind the men, or did he hear it from one or two men? I ask again, how did he get his information?

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: You do not know, and I do not know either.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: Would you not assume that the non-commissioned officer would be able to get that information?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: His information is of very little value because, among other things, the attitude is so unreasonable. I cannot see how anybody could get that information unless he had the whole battalion on parade and commanded a show of hands. There is something wrong. A good many fishy stories appear in the paper that do not make sense to me.

Hon. Mr. KING: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: What is that?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: He agrees with you.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: That is a very comforting thought.

The Japanese war is still before us. Our proximity to the United States and our interrelationship with that country in many