

there are people nearer home who have not contributed very much to the war?

Mr. VIEN: When that question comes up we will discuss it.

Mr. ROWELL: Let me answer my hon. friend in this way: I do not know to what country my hon. friend refers.

Mr. VIEN: I want to be very frank; I refer to the United States.

Mr. ROWELL: The United States, Great Britain, France and Japan were interested in the situation in Russia. Does my hon. friend say that France should have done more?

Mr. VIEN: I will speak of the United States. I say that in my opinion the United States had not done her full share to the extent that Canada had done hers, and it would have been in the interest of Canada to be relieved from the responsibility of the Siberian expedition, and the United States to send four or five thousand men to Siberia.

Mr. MORPHY: Will you let me ask you what has your county done in the war?

Mr. VIEN: That is out of the question for the time being.

Mr. MORPHY: I should think it was.

Mr. VIEN: That is out of the question for the time being, but, when the time comes to cover that ground I will answer the hon. gentleman in the proper way.

Mr. ROWELL: I am afraid we shall not make much headway if there are to be interruptions such as these, although I am very glad to answer all the questions that may be put to me in discussing these estimates. My hon. friend says that Canada has done more than her share—

Mr. VIEN: I do.

Mr. ROWELL: —and that her interests have been sacrificed in this war.

Mr. VIEN: In the Siberian expedition.

Mr. ROWELL: Then I desire to put myself on record as absolutely dissenting from my hon. friend's view. I desire to join issue squarely and fairly on that question with him and with any who share his views. My hon. friend has said that we should have withdrawn and allowed the United States to send the additional men. The United States sent all the men she agreed to send. I believe that, notwithstanding all the sacrifices that the old Mother Country made in this war, if Canada had dropped out, if we had declined to send men to Siberia, rather than ask the United States to bear her share

of this burden, she might have called out some more of her schoolboys and sent them over in order to carry her own burden. Neither Canada nor the Mother Country is desirous of putting her share, or any portion of it, on the shoulders of any others, and we are not their keepers. We are here to do our own duty in our own place. Now, I mentioned this matter as one of the questions that came before the Imperial War Cabinet and as illustrating the kind of questions that came up for consideration. It has developed into a discussion much more protracted than I had anticipated.

Mr. POWER: If we are not at war with any particular section or race of Russians, how can any hon. member, or any minister, justify our sending men over to Russia who may be shot or killed in action against one or other of these various races or sections?

Mr. ROWELL: I have given my hon. friend the reasons why there was intervention. I have stated the reasons why Canada was asked to take part in the expedition. My answer is that Canada was simply carrying out her part of the arrangements which, in the judgment of the War Office and of the Supreme War Council, it was necessary should be carried out. As a member of the Government I am prepared to take the full responsibility for everything that follows from that action.

Mr. POWER: Were these men supposed to fight when they got there?

Mr. ROWELL: They went over to fight.

Mr. POWER: With whom?

Mr. ROWELL: Owing to the conditions which developed they have not been called upon to fight. They have been engaged in assisting in preserving order.

Mr. POWER: Did the minister or anybody else have any idea who these Canadian troops were going to fight when they got there?

An hon. MEMBER: The Bolsheviks.

Mr. ROWELL: They were going to fight—

An hon. MEMBER: Your friends.

Mr. VIEN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a question of order. The hon. gentleman who has just spoken has said in a general way that the Bolsheviks were our friends. As he said "your friends" meaning this side of the House, I ask him to withdraw the expression. I want you to rule on my question of order.

An hon. MEMBER: You must be Scotch.