

also, that the Solicitor General should provide that a widow's only son who is her sole support should be exempted. That is the practice in every Christian country—in Europe at all events, although I do not believe it is the practice in New Zealand—and I would strongly urge that provision be made in the Bill granting exemption to a widow's only son who is her sole support.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: I cannot quite agree with my hon. friend in his last suggestion. Why should the only son of a widow be exempted when the five sons of another widow might be taken?

Mr. CURRIE: I said, if he was her sole support.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: Perhaps I misunderstood my hon. friend. At all events, a widow with five sons is entitled to keep one of them at home, if a widow with only one son is entitled to keep her boy at home. I know of a family in Brantford where the five sons have all gone to the front. One has been killed, one is now wounded, and three are in the trenches. The mother is a widow and is absolutely in need of some one to support her. Why should she not be allowed to have one of her sons at home, just as much as a widow with only one son? However, I am not here for the purpose of suggesting how men may escape from doing their duty. The primary object of this Bill is to raise men, not to exempt them, and if there is one man who should be exempted and who does not seem to be mentioned here, it is the returned soldier who has done his bit in the trenches. After being at home here for a few months he might be considered medically fit again, and might be called up under this Act unless there is a provision against it, even though he had served two years at the front.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He is exempted in the schedule.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: Another point that I do not see covered by the Bill is whether the men who are conscripted will be given any choice as to the arm of the service which they shall join. It appears to me that a man who is an engineer by trade should not be attached to the infantry. A horseman or an artilleryman should be allowed to serve where he will be the most useful. I think the Bill should make some provision for putting the man in the hole for which he is best fitted. His training may have fitted him for a certain kind of soldiering, but not for every kind of

soldiering, and it appears to me that a man's fitness for a particular arm of the service and his liking for it should be taken into consideration. The aerial service is becoming more and more important every day. I for one think Canada should have had a flying corps long ago, and I hope provision will soon be made for it. We have seen by the newspapers recently that Great Britain is short in this respect, and in view of the urgent need for aeroplanes and airmen, I do not see why a man who is physically fit for the flying corps, and has the nerve and other necessary qualifications, should not be allowed to join that wing. It seems to me we should be using our material to a disadvantage if we assigned such a man to some other branch of the service. I trust the Solicitor General will take that suggestion into his consideration, and, as I may not speak on the Bill again, I take this opportunity of repeating what I said in my original address, that the Bill should not be restricted to providing the 100,000 men that are required to-day, but should be wide enough to allow us to raise 200,000 or more men should they be required. Men who are exempted from serving with this first draft of 100,000 should not be exempted for all time to come, but should be available in case another 50,000 or more men are required. Those men who have got off this time, so to speak, in the very class in which they are called, should not be considered exempt for all time to come. I do not know whether this is carried out in the Bill. I simply mention it so that the Solicitor General may make a note of it.

Mr. McCRAANEY: Is the certificate of exemption good in its class until the end of the war?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No. Every certificate of exemption may be conditional.

Mr. McCRAANEY: But, supposing it is not conditional; supposing a mistake has been made?

Mr. MEIGHEN: If it is not conditional at all, but is absolute in form, then it is an absolute certificate and exempts the man from that call. The call is sent out by proclamation, calling the men in that particular class. If a man in that class secures an absolute exemption, the certificate of exemption applies to that call. While we are on the subject of exemption, I may say certificates may be conditional as to time. A man may be exempted pending the happening of a certain event, or he may be exempted pending his occupation in a certain line of work. I wish to call attention