

a strong hand I see trouble ahead. There are many other problems concerning the returned soldier that I feel are not receiving the consideration they ought to receive. I notice the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. Stevens) and others have resolutions on the Order Paper which will introduce a discussion of some of the questions that I would like very much to see discussed.

One question that ought to be dealt with and dealt with immediately, is the technical education of the men who enlisted from the ages of sixteen and upwards who have returned to this country, and who had not the opportunity of completing their education before leaving for the war. Many of them were studying for various professions, and the continuation of their studies I regard as a serious question which the Government should take into consideration with promptitude. I entirely concur in the resolution which was adopted by the War Veterans of Vancouver recently. I do not think it is necessary to read the resolution, which I feel to be in the interests of the Dominion and of returned soldiers. However, I fully endorse the views expressed in that resolution.

Mr. McKENZIE: What is it? It will be interesting to know what the resolution contains.

Mr. CLEMENTS: It reads:

Declaring that the Oriental was a detriment to Canada, members of the G.W.V.A. last night passed a resolution asking the Government to prevent further immigration of this class for a period of two years. Strong protests were lodged against immigration of Chinese as students. The meeting further went on record with a resolution that foreigners who served with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces overseas be given full citizenship in the Dominion.

Now I come to a question the responsibility of which I feel myself, and I urge honestly, in so far as I am personally concerned, that every individual in this Dominion, man, woman or child, is entitled to the privileges under which he was born. I recall what was done by the Fathers of Confederation. Although the bargain that was made at that time was for the purpose of promoting the best interests of this Dominion, I claimed that some of the arrangements in connection with that bargain are not working to the best advantage of the whole country. What I desire and what I hope every individual member of this House desires, is not only unison of thought but unity amongst the people of the different provinces. I claim that the spread is getting greater and greater since this Confederation pact was consummated. That spread is becoming wider and wider

[Mr. Clements.]

each day. I hope I am not tramping on the corns of any individual member of this House in the observations which I am making in regard to this question. There is not an atom of bigotry within my soul. Every man is entitled to his privileges whether they have to do with his church or otherwise. Whether the people of the eastern provinces agree with me or not, I say that the individual who cannot foresee what the western provinces desire and demand is not very far seeing. What I advocate from my own personal point of view, as being necessary to bring about unison among the people of this country is a non-sectarian national school system from one end of this Dominion to the other.

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Minister of the Interior): Mr. Speaker, the resolution moved by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Clements) reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient that the policy of the Government in relation to the internment of alien enemies, deportation of undesirable persons and the treatment of soldiers be clearly defined.

The subject covered by the resolution is wider than can possibly be answered properly by the minister of any single department because it refers to internment on the one hand and the deportation of undesirables whether interned or not, apparently, and in the second place, and lastly, to the subject of the treatment of soldiers in general, presumably meaning returned soldiers.

The very interesting address which the hon. gentleman has delivered covers even a wider range than that of the resolution and indeed, in the main has a bearing upon the general question of immigration into this country and the revision of our immigration laws. I shall make no reference in the few remarks I shall offer to that phase of the subject inasmuch as immigration has not been under the Department of the Interior since I took charge. But while referring to the first subject raised by the resolution I shall say a very few words in regard to the last.

The policy of the Government in regard to internment of course dates back to the opening of the war. At that time the internment took place on a very considerable scale of persons of alien enemy origin who were interned, not in every case because they were showing evidence of hostility or were in any sense undesirable or misbehaving themselves at that time, but because under the conditions that obtained when war was precipitated, they were out