

forget politics long enough to appreciate the misfortunes of anybody else. I read on:

"In conclusion may I reiterate that I have been closely associated with Mr. Brown for the past eighteen months, and would welcome an opportunity to testify under oath that during the whole of the period I have found his behaviour entirely natural and normal.

That is signed by Charles Saunders. I continue to read from the article:

Among these credentials are some pretty well known figures: Mr. J. R. Waghorn, head of the previously named firm; his manager, R. P. Burr, and his chief clerk, G. R. Riley; Valentine Quinn, vice-president, Pacific Coast Terminals; hospital patients; all of my immediate neighbours, and a lot of others with whom I was in contact, all certifying my sane condition. As I said, some fifty testimonials.

A Legion committee found that in the records there is a statement to the effect that I had been in an asylum prior to the war—an absurd statement, and entirely untrue, and so attested by sworn documents by every member of my family, and George H. Cowan and Sydney B. Woods, both K.C.'s.

On the committal papers the Legion found also a statement that I had been arrested and charged with an offence against children. This is entirely untrue. No such occurrence ever took place, neither the offence nor a police charge. Questioned and asked for proof, the pensions doctor was forced to acknowledge to the Legion that there was no proof in existence. This may make it evident that a doctor may write any statement he likes into a committal document. Please keep in mind that these statements have not got to be sworn.

I do not desire to delay the house unduly with this matter at this late period in the session. If the people whom I have the honour to represent see fit to send me back to the house, I shall go on with this matter when parliament reassembles. One year ago I would not have believed that it would be possible in Canada for a returned soldier to be railroaded into an insane asylum and kept there for years and years. I would not have believed that the monstrous outrages that were obviously committed against this man could possibly be committed, and I would not have believed that the authorities of Canada would allow such a condition to stand unpunished and unrectified.

Here we have evidence that is beyond question. I realize that a number of the members of the house are deeply interested in this matter. I wish to appeal to the newspapers of this country, who have the power to give publicity or withhold it, and I wish to appeal to the people generally to give careful consideration to the case of Stuart Brown, and the case of Thomas Harvey which I have already brought before the house.

Let us remember that in the war which is coming any one of their boys, their own brothers, can be in the unspeakable position of Stuart Brown and Thomas Harvey. As I said last night, almost the first thing that Thomas Harvey told me was that in the insane asylum in which he had been incar-

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cerated there was another man who had been there for twenty-five years, though he was absolutely sane—a prisoner serving penal servitude with no crime against him. Surely this state of affairs is so terrible that it cannot be allowed to continue.

I wish to make one or two comments. Probably the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Gregg) will make a statement, but he may not be ready to do so at the present time. If he is returned, and his government is returned, no doubt he will clear up situations of this kind.

There are two or three things I wish to say in addition to what I have already said. My information is that the story which appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* was submitted to that paper in August, 1948, and from that time until January, 1949, the date of publication, was investigated by it from every angle before it would publish the article. It would appear, therefore, that the article is completely reliable.

I have on my desk two communications which came to me directly from Stuart Brown. According to his latest letter to me, Stuart Brown is now in Shaughnessy hospital recovering from a broken hip. He is now sixty-seven years old. His life has been ruined—ruined by the Department of Veterans Affairs of Canada, the nation he served in war. His home was destroyed, his children alienated from him, his wife alienated from him, his business reputation destroyed. He stands on the record as a criminal, for crimes never committed. He is still accused of insanity, which has never been established and cannot be established. Yet nothing is done about it by anyone in Canada. Surely the very stones on the street would scream out against such outrages.

In addition to what I have said I have a copy of the submission made by the provincial command of the Canadian Legion dealing with this case.

Let me make this general remark concerning our veterans. It is frequently urged that the departmental officials have to be extremely strict in order to avoid being imposed upon by veterans attempting to "swing the lead," to use a common expression in the army. I will grant that a good many men abuse the privileges which are theirs. I will grant that precautions must be taken against what is called swinging the lead. My experience in dealing with veterans has not been as extensive as it might have been, but it has led me to fear that far too much injustice is visited upon fully deserving soldiers in order to avoid favouring people who might be "swinging the lead." I should say it would be better to humour six veterans