

Supply—Veterans Affairs

it is straightforward. In order to make the case complete, so that the minister can go to work on it, I will read a supplementary statement on the man's pre-war history. This is dated June 17, 1948:

Came to Canada Nov. 1921 at 13 years of age. I was an orphan. My father was killed in world war I. My mother having died after my birth. My father died in 1918. He had served in the Queen's Liverpool Rifles and was a war disability pensioner. I received a child's allowance until I was 16 years of age.

I was brought to Canada by the St. George's Home, 1153 Wellington street, Ottawa, Immigration No. 21 B 196. From date of entrance into Canada till 18 years of age I was a farm worker under the government's supervision. From 18 years of age to my enlistment in 1939, I did various jobs over the Dominion of Canada, such as bush, farm and construction work.

Thomas Harvey

P.S. Pensioned in March, 1946. Rate 100 per cent and \$15 for my son. Total \$90. I pay \$20 per month to the Children's Aid Society of Montreal for the care of my son.

I regret that this is just a statement given from the man's memory. As I said, I took him into the reading room, let him sit down where it was quiet, and told him he was safe there. I spoke to the people in authority. I gave him paper on which to write. He wrote just as fast as he could write and straightforwardly. He finished up in a few hours; I am not just sure of the time. When he went to Montreal we thought it would not be very good for him to go there. I had some anxiety.

Mr. COTE (Matapedia-Matane): Why?

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am telling what I thought. Never mind why I thought it. I thought it was not good for him to go to Montreal. But he went there with the object of getting documents which would support the statements that are made here. I understand that is why the whole deposition remains undocumented. But Mr. Chairman, this is the deposition of a Britisher; it is the deposition of a Canadian; it is the deposition of a man who joined His Majesty's forces in 1939, and it is certainly entitled to the fairest consideration of this house and of the country. I have no idea as to the authenticity of it, how many flaws can be found in it, or anything of that sort. I merely presented it to the house.

I feel that this one conclusion, ought to be drawn from this unfortunate situation, in which I am afraid there is a great deal more truth than some hon. members would like to imagine. I ask the minister this question, and I believe one of the most important things for him to do in his regime is to enable him-

[Mr. Blackmore.]

self to answer this question satisfactorily. Has the minister any officer or board whose business it is to know the whereabouts of ex-servicemen and to assure this nation that no such abomination shall be committed against veterans as that which appears to have been inflicted against veteran Harvey? If not, will the minister take steps to see that such an agency be set up forthwith? Will the minister take steps to see that the veterans affairs committee, or some other committee which this house may see fit to set up and charge with the responsibility, shall be free to examine the cases of all those who may be in doubt and who might possibly be the victims of such treatment as this man complains of?

That is the case of veteran Harvey, Mr. Chairman; I leave it to the house and to the minister. When we come back next session, of course we shall be interested in the whereabouts of veteran Harvey.

Before I take my seat I should like to say just a word or two with respect to this case, because I have another one to which I wish to refer. The minister has put on record a number of answers to questions which I asked on June 8 and June 18. Of course I have had no opportunity whatsoever to see finally just what the answer is. I do not know the nature of the telegram which he has bearing upon Canadian psychiatrists. Everyone knows the stand I have taken with respect to psychiatrists. I have not said anything in particular about them. I have merely asked a number of questions. Consequently, because I have not heard what the minister has said I shall have to leave the answering of what he has said until the next session of parliament, when I shall be most watchful concerning that matter and ready to go.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry? Carried.

Mr. BENTLEY: No, Mr. Chairman.

An hon. MEMBER: Louder.

Mr. BENTLEY: It is necessary for me to make the Chairman hear; he keeps on going at a fast rate.

Mr. ADAMSON: Does the minister wish to reply?

Mr. BENTLEY: Does the minister wish to reply to the hon. member for Lethbridge before I ask my questions?

Mr. GREGG: No.

Mr. BENTLEY: I just want to mention here that I have gone carefully over the report of the committee on veterans affairs, and I