

that when they came back they would be given everything, the country would be theirs. These promises were not kept, so that a preference in the civil service was given to the returned men. If there is any member of this committee who does not know what this means, I will explain it to him.

According to the statute, in applying for a civil service position the returned man is given a preference over the civilian provided that he has the necessary minimum marks to pass the examination. There is a second preference given which was not asked for by the returned men but which was placed upon the statute book by the profiteers of the last union government who wanted to sell their bacon overseas. This is a preference to the disabled man. This preference was supposed to be given to men who were wounded, but that is not the meaning which has been given to the word "disabled." It is taken to mean a man who has a pension; therefore, a man who was not wounded but who has a pension is given priority or preference over the man who was wounded but who has not been able to secure a pension. It is really a double preference. The man with a pension has a preference over the other returned men provided he has the necessary minimum marks.

In that matter, too, all governments were afraid to take action. They left it at that, although the standard of the civil service has been lowered because of the fact that in several cases the very best men available were not accepted and the positions were given to returned men with minimum marks.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Oh, you are talking nonsense.

Mr. POULIOT: That is all right, but I want my hon. friend to listen. I am not speaking of him, and I should like him to listen and pass judgment after I am through. He may say anything. Everybody is accustomed to his outbursts, but I should like him to read the law, and if he does not understand it, I shall be glad to put my finger on it, or he can put his nose on it and smell it.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Are you a returned man?

Mr. POULIOT: No, but I am working for all, and I do not want any interruptions. If anybody wants to shout back at me, Mr. Chairman, will you please tell him to wait until I am through and then we shall all be charmed to hear his eloquence.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I shall be delighted.

Mr. POULIOT: This is a most important question, Mr. Chairman. I am not attacking the returned men, I am not attacking those

who have been wounded—not at all. I am simply placing facts before the committee on which I as a member of parliament want action.

The committee probably will agree with me that the preference granted to the soldiers of the allied armies is ridiculous. It was a gesture of fake patriotism, to make us look more patriotic than even the king himself. That question I leave for the moment.

There is a second military preference which was granted to the soldiers, who were promised a lot by the government. It was awarded to them so that their military merit should gain something for them in a very different field. I have no objection to a pension being granted according to the law to any soldier who deserves it according to the law, but I do not see why some men should be discriminated against and others given better chances. I think we should get the very best, the most able men in the civil service, and I want to see equality and everyone treated with justice. I do not want to deprive any soldier of his rights, I do not want to deprive any veteran of his legitimate rights, whether the war in which he fought was the Boer war or the great war, or any other war. I repeat, I do not want that at all. But what I do want is justice in every department, and when there is an injustice somewhere and I know it, I shall denounce it bitterly so that the wrong can be redressed as soon as possible. I am not afraid of anyone. God is my master, and I am afraid of him and nobody else.

The Borden government promised everything to the returned men, but they did not deliver the goods. Afterwards they introduced the military preference in civil service appointments, and now it works against the sons of the very men who served in the war of 1914-18. My hon. friend the member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) will probably meet many of his constituents who will complain of the fact that although they fought in the great war, their children are now deprived of appointment to the civil service just on account of legislation that was passed in 1919 by the union government.

But there is something else. We now have conscription for youth. In the Civil Service Act the war is defined as the war of 1914-18, the great war, and the preference there granted to returned soldiers means that a young man who is fully qualified for appointment to the civil service and has passed the necessary examination, even though he be the son of a returned man and has obtained the highest marks in the examination, is completely deprived of the right to be appointed to a