

*War Appropriation—Army*

Yet these people of alien descent are attending our universities and are apparently not subject to call. These universities are kept going by the state. It is true these young men are paying their tuition fees and the cost of their board and lodging, but the cost of maintaining the institutions is a state responsibility. These young men are being qualified in their respective professions, whether it be science, the law or anything else, and will be ready to enter into competition with a generation which has been limited in its attendance at university.

This situation is rather disconcerting to the public. On account of their background it may not be possible to take them into the armed forces, particularly when they have been sent here by England, but we have a duty to our own people to see that these people are not allowed to take the cream of the land without having taken part in the struggle in which we are now engaged. I think we could satisfy public opinion without being too generous to these aliens who are attending our universities. We could give them every possible assistance, but require of them a scientific application of their knowledge rather than provide an advancement of their learning.

This matter has been brought forcibly to the public mind by reason of the questions asked following the controversy which took place at Toronto university about the admission or non-admission or rejection of these students. There are many ways of looking at this matter. There should be a proper way to handle this problem and satisfy public opinion.

Mr. RALSTON: First, I want to correct an impression I may have left with regard to the one individual who I said had not behaved properly. He was not a student at Toronto university; he was at another university.

I am sorry that I have not before me the exact text of what had been determined in connection with this matter of enlistments and call-ups. I wish to say that I am thoroughly in accord with the idea that these young men should serve this country and should be prepared to do their full part in so far as the country can avail itself of their services. I want to go farther and say that so far as the army is concerned I am not one of those who believe that we should keep these young men out of the army if, after investigation, we are able to satisfy ourselves that they will serve the country properly. I feel that the obligation is on us to investigate them and, if possible, to make use of their services. That goes both for voluntary enlistments and for men being called up. My hon. friend has

[Mr. Boucher.]

suggested as an alternative that if they cannot go into the army, they should at least be required to serve this country in some other way by utilization of their scientific training or ability in that line. As a matter of fact, that has not been considered by the government so far as I know, but, to express my personal opinion, I am thoroughly in accord with that. I am not one of those witch hunters who feel that everybody who happens to be of alien birth is, therefore, somebody whom we must either put behind barbed wire or else relieve from the obligations of residence in Canada in time of war if he is to have the benefit of domicile and asylum here. Not long ago the army discharged certain men who, I believed, on investigation and from what the sponsors who spoke for them said, would prove eminently good soldiers in every way. After their cases had been investigated they were told that if they cared to be reenlisted we would reenlist them. That is the attitude of the army, and I do not believe we are endangering the safety of the state, provided we take the necessary precautions, which we have the facilities to do, to check up on them and make sure that they are the sort of people who can give good service in the army.

Mr. POULIOT: I have just one question to ask the minister. It is about internment camps for anti-nazis. I should like to know how many of them there are in this country and what is being done at the anti-nazi refugee camp at Sherbrooke. I am informed that last year they were getting two big truckloads of beer each week. I understand that it is pretty hard to get it now, but all last year they had it. I could give the minister the name of the driver. It seems strange that while we are fighting the nazis, some others who are opposed to them are placed in internment camps in this country under the Department of National Defence. I should like to know how many of these camps there are, how much they cost and why we keep these men behind barbed wire if they feel as we do about the nazis.

Mr. RALSTON: I know nothing about the matter, but I will make inquiries to find out the circumstances of which my hon. friend speaks.

Mr. POULIOT: The man in charge of the camp gave a public lecture in Sherbrooke last year and it was printed in *La Tribune*, a daily paper. I think we are entitled to some information with regard to the matter. I do not wish to cause any trouble to the minister, but I find it astounding that these men who feel like we do about the war and want to defeat the nazis should be kept in an internment