

*Canadian Forces Act*

In response to the questions I asked on May 31, as to the arrangements that were made for Canadian troops in Korea, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) in his reply discussed various aspects of the problem and, as reported at page 3568 of *Hansard*, had this to say:

I am glad of the opportunity extended by the leader of the opposition to say something about this matter. In the first place, it may be pointed out that the Canadian brigade group now forms a part of the first United Nations—commonwealth—division. The supplies for this group are furnished, like those for the other commonwealth forces, from United States sources. It would not be economical for us to have a separate supply line.

Then, later in the same remarks, the minister said this:

We are endeavouring to make arrangements whereby cigarettes, in addition to the supplies of other peculiarly Canadian products desired by the troops, will be immediately available out of stores arranged with the United Kingdom or United States authorities. If necessary, we shall set up our special Canadian agencies.

That was a positive assurance on May 31 that unless facilities could be provided through United Kingdom or United States authorities to give Canadians the things they desired which were particularly Canadian, the government if necessary—and I quote the words of the minister—would “set up our special Canadian agencies”. This is now November, and those agencies have not been set up, nor have the facilities been arranged as promised at that time.

Already reference has been made to statements reported in the press by those returning from Korea. I have before me yesterday's issue of the *Toronto Telegram* in which interviews with veterans returning from Korea are reported. One of those veterans referred to the fact that they could not get Canadian cigarettes. He was speaking about other things as well, of course, and said that last spring a group of them had written to me about this subject, enclosing some of the cigarettes they were receiving. He indicated that I had written back to them about this, and that as yet nothing had happened to change the situation.

I want to point out that it was in response to the communications I received at that time that I raised this point on May 31 in the house. There are a number of veterans in the house who saw service in the first world war. Those who did will recall the quality, or the lack of quality, of the cigarettes we received for some time during that war. They were known as gaspers—and that was a very complimentary name, I may say.

I have here two packages I received from Korea of the cigarettes being issued over there. I would not have mentioned the name

of the make, had it not been for the fact that it has been reported by the veteran himself who made reference to them. For that reason therefore I do not think it is necessary to continue the anonymity of the cigarettes—although I did at the time I raised the question. These are Capstans, made in Australia, and in every respect they bear a strange family resemblance to those packages of cigarettes that some of us got in the first world war. If there was any tobacco in them, then it certainly was so carefully disguised that none of us could have told the difference if indeed it had been something entirely different.

I do wish that any member who has memories of those other cigarettes could have a smell of these I now hold in my hand. Personally, I would not suggest that anyone should smoke them. But they are the cigarettes that are still being supplied to our troops in Korea.

One of the veterans interviewed by the *Toronto Telegram* spoke about the difficulty of getting any entertainment while they were on leave. This raises a question that goes far beyond the mere supplying of adequate cigarettes, or otherwise. We have been told that the morale of our troops in Korea is excellent. I am sure, from all reports, that that is so; we would not expect it to be otherwise. However, Canadians should not be placed in a position where they are called upon to look to the official organizations of other countries to receive the assurance that the men in the line are being remembered.

I have no doubt that that is what the Most Rev. W. F. Barfoot, the Primate of the Church of England, had in mind on his return from Korea, as reported in the *Edmonton Journal* of November 14, when he said that Canadians must guard against the tendency to regard the troops in Korea as a forgotten army. Certainly it is not a forgotten army. What the Most Rev. W. F. Barfoot undoubtedly was suggesting was that Canadian troops in Korea may think that they are a forgotten army so far as Canadians are concerned.

On May 31 the Minister of National Defence said that it would not be economical for us to have a separate supply line. Surely there must be some way in which these Canadian organizations can go to Korea. If in the opinion of the Minister of National Defence the Canadian troops are too small in number to justify a complete organization of that nature, then I feel sure that these organizations which have indicated their willingness to perform these services will be ready to perform them for the troops of other nations which have no such services available today. I feel sure that the people of Canada would