

founded in 1934 and incorporated by dominion charter in July, 1944. These two funds have separate boards. It is the recommendation of the committee that as far as possible all these should be administered so as to secure uniform results. I am not speaking for the government on this, but I can assure the committee that that recommendation will have their most serious consideration, and as far as the Department of National Defence is concerned we shall use our good offices to see that as far as we possibly can there is close cooperation among the three funds.

The report itself refers to one thing to which I think I should make reference. It says:

In this connection the committee is gratified to be able to report that, probably for the first time since the termination of world war I, all veteran organizations of national scope in Canada have collaborated in the preparation of a joint brief and have been unanimous in their recommendations.

This result is warmly appreciated. It is also fair to say that the recommendations of the committee are in substantial accord with all the submissions put before the committee, whether by organizations or individuals. Accordingly it is the view of the government that the bill, having received sound consideration and widespread support, should receive the favourable consideration of the House. Its object is to provide machinery for the careful expenditures of money created by the expenditures of the men and women of the army. It is designed to do that in a way which they themselves would like to see it done; that is, for the benefit of those of their number and their dependents who are in necessitous circumstances. It represents a true spirit of comradeship and an attitude of unqualified cooperation.

Mr. MUTCH: If I have learned one thing as chairman of the committee whose report is being discussed at the moment it is that if you have something to say you should make it direct and brief. But no matter how important the considerations before us or how great the urge to get through, there is always time to take a moment or two to be courteous and to give expression to that courtesy. If the remarks of the minister as applied to the committee of the whole were justified, and I think they were, then I as chairman of the committee should like at this moment to express publicly to the committee my appreciation of the fine spirit of industry and of cooperation manifested by the members of the committee on canteen funds. If the remarks of the minister directed toward me

were in any way justified, I should like to say publicly that much of the efficiency, expedition and thoroughness of the work of that committee was due to one who is not a member of the committee, the capable secretary who was supplied to the committee, whose interest and knowledge of veterans affairs is the equal of that of any hon. member of the committee, and exceeds that of most of us. It is a bit unusual, but on behalf of the committee I should like to pay a word of tribute to Mr. Burgess, who was an able assistant to that committee.

Since the bill which the committee reported has come before the house intact I do not want to be in the position of placing any logs or stones in the path of its progress. Therefore, again expressing my appreciation of the work of the committee and expressing to the minister the appreciation of the committee for his kind words, I shall allow the committee to discuss the bill.

Mr. BROOKS: There is not very much that needs to be said regarding the bill. I simply wish to confirm what has already been said by the minister and by the hon. member for Winnipeg South. The committee was unanimous in the report. The work of the committee was congenial. Perhaps that was due to the chairman. I am not going to take away from him any credit which has been given to him, except to say we all felt that our duty was to do our best for the returned men. I also think that we have learned a lot from the experience of handling the canteen funds of the first great war. We had the experience of having before us as witnesses men who had worked on these canteen funds since the first great war, and they helped us materially.

As the minister said, we also had representatives from the different returned men's organizations. Taking it all in all, there was no reason in the world why we should not bring in a unanimous report. The only matter on which perhaps there was any difference of opinion was regarding the air force and navy benevolent funds. They did not come within the terms of our reference; but as the minister has pointed out, we made a recommendation in that connection. I feel it was the general opinion of the committee that at some future date the matter should receive careful consideration by the government, possibly with the idea in view of placing these funds in the same position as the army benevolent fund, or the bill which is now before the house. Further than that I have nothing to say except that we were