

lation that is necessary in this connection even though the provinces do not consider it wise to take the initiative.

I would be failing in my duty to my constituents did I not also continue to press the government to take some action in the way of legislation respecting Asiatic immigration. I will go so far as to say that the conditions in British Columbia to-day, more particularly in my own district are better than they were four or five years ago; I have received many favourable comments regarding the legislation that was enacted by this parliament imposing restrictions upon Chinese immigration. But I would strongly urge the government to go further, to keep up the good work they have started, by tightening the regulations and by introducing further legislation with respect to Japanese immigration. If the policy already adopted can be continued with respect to the Japanese I am sure it will meet with the grateful approval of the people of British Columbia.

I need not dwell at length upon the necessity of legislation respecting old age pensions, because I notice that the government have a resolution on the order paper looking to some action in this regard. So far as I can see now, their proposals in this respect will receive my whole-hearted support.

I would like to touch for a moment upon one or two questions affecting our returned men; and as these matters also are to some extent covered by legislation of which notice appears on the order paper, it will not be necessary for me to discuss them in detail. But I would like to refer to one of the reports brought down by the special parliamentary committee appointed last year to look into these questions. I have always maintained that the conditions affecting the returned men in Canada were not as they should be, notwithstanding the legislation that has been passed in that connection. A good deal of expense could be eliminated by a reorganization of the different pension boards and medical staffs. I am aware that the report submitted to the House last year was not concurred in; nevertheless I would like to emphasize the fact that that recommendation was adopted by the special committee and reported to the House, and the government are bound at least to take some notice of it. I would like the privilege of putting on Hansard the fifth report of this committee, which was submitted to the House on Tuesday, July 15, 1924. It reads as follows:

In view of the widespread dissatisfaction amongst returned men and others, and the representations made in regard to the attitude shown by the present Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada, your committee

has taken evidence and having considered the matter very carefully, has come to the following conclusions:

That the interests of the returned men will be better safeguarded, and the intent of parliament will be better carried into effect by a more sympathetic interpretation of the Pension Act, and its schedules, and that this can be best carried out by the reorganization of the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada and the medical services attached thereto.

Your committee therefore recommends to parliament that the government be asked to take the necessary steps to carry this resolution into effect.

That report embodied the sentiments of the returned men generally, and if the government can find it possible to act upon it I am confident that a good deal of expense will be eliminated and much of the dissatisfaction that now prevails throughout the country among the returned men will be overcome. I have had my attention drawn to a resolution adopted by the Nelson branch of the Great War Veterans' Association, and I notice also that this resolution was included in the memorandum presented to the government this year by the Dominion Veterans' Alliance. It reads as follows:

Whereas November 11th does and always should remain in the memories and hearts of Canadians as the anniversary of a day of rejoicing and supreme thankfulness; and as it is fitting and right that this date be perpetuated for all time to keep alive in the minds of our people the supreme sacrifice made by 60,000 of our comrades who died for their country, it is resolved;

That the Nelson branch of the Great War Veterans' Association go on record as strongly opposed to the anniversary of armistice being observed on any other date than the eleventh of November, which date should be declared a legal holiday by legislation.

Action should therefore be taken to have the existing act of 1921 to read:

"The eleventh day of November, being a day in 1918 in which the Great War was triumphantly concluded by an armistice, shall be a legal holiday and shall be kept and observed as such under the name of Armistice Day."

This resolution is backed up by practically every social organization in my city, and it is the demand of the representatives of the Dominion Veterans' Alliance. It is not necessary for me to go into the matter in detail; I think it is obvious that the government should take some action to recognize the 11th of November as a legal holiday. The practice of combining Armistice Day with Thanksgiving Day, as was done last year, should not, it seems to me, be continued; there is no doubt that when it comes to determining the holiday the preference should be given to the 11th of November. I trust that the government will recognize the value and importance of the resolution.

One of the most important questions that demand our interest to-day, I think, is transportation. It is a question that has been before the public for the past few years, and