

mittee. We feel, however, that on this particular occasion it should not require hours of debate to indicate approval, or hours of debate to indicate disapproval. My personal view is that Canada, as a great nation, should have the finest capital possible. Let me repeat what I said at the outset, that we approve this bill.

Mr. GRAYDON: Mr. Chairman, I am gratified at the tendency of hon. members not to try to isolate this area from other parts of Canada, or to regard it as something separate from the general interest; because after all Ottawa is the capital of our great land. I think it only natural that we should take pride in having a capital which will be a credit to the country generally, and I believe that is the feeling of the committee, regardless of the details which may sometimes divide us in connection with its beautification.

I suppose the idea of associating this beautification scheme with a national war memorial arose from a movement which has made considerable headway in Canada in the period following World War II, as a result of which in various municipalities and counties throughout Canada something perhaps more material in the way of war memorials is being proposed. In many places community centres seem to have gained great favour. I express no opinion concerning the matter, other than to suggest that we should not go too far in either direction. I believe there is a course which will appeal to most Canadians; and if I may express a personal thought in connection with a national war memorial, I should hope that what is set out in the explanatory note of this bill will not prevent further consideration of the whole matter of a national war memorial on some other basis if in the days to come that should be considered the proper thing to do. Our boys have just come back. I do not suppose they have had much opportunity to give consideration to what they believe is the right kind of memorial to their pals and comrades who lost their lives in this war. So I would hope the acceptance of this bill would not preclude the creation in Canada of a national war memorial which would conform to the opinion of those whose views I think are much more important than those of any of us in this chamber, except those sitting here who served in the armed forces; that is, the views of the people who fought the battle that we might have a war memorial in this country.

Before I sit down I want to say this one thing further. There are more than material considerations in the matter of a war memorial. There is the sentimental consideration. Every visitor to these buildings,

[Mr. Shaw.]

whether he be a civilian or an ex-serviceman, goes away more impressed by the dignified reverence of our memorial chamber than with any other single thing in Ottawa. I think that must be kept in mind in considering a national war memorial; and I only suggest that we be assured by the government that adoption of this legislation will not preclude a free, open and proper discussion and final decision at some future day in regard to a national war memorial for this last war. Of all the many things I saw a few months ago, when I had the privilege of going overseas, I think especially of the great Scottish national war memorial at Edinburgh.

Mr. MACKENZIE: The finest in the world.

Mr. GRAYDON: I agree entirely with my hon. friend, who has perhaps had a much greater opportunity of assessing it than I had; but it was the finest I had ever seen.

Mr. MACKENZIE: And ours is the second finest in the world.

Mr. GRAYDON: That may be so, though in connection with war memorials it is hardly a question of competition. Actually our own war memorial, for its size and type, does not have to take second place. But I will say this—

Mr. MACKENZIE: I was speaking about the war memorial chamber, not about the monument. I am not in favour of the monument.

Mr. GRAYDON: We understand each other on that. But I think for reverence and for dignity, that great shrine at the top of Castle Rock in Edinburgh, overlooking from its prominence that great city of culture, that great centre of so many good things the world has to offer, stands supreme.

While overseas I wrote the weekly newspaper in my area certain paragraphs, one of which I should like to place on record, because it states clearly what my thoughts were as I left that great war memorial. This is what I wrote:

The people of cultured, quiet Edinburgh point with deep pride and reverence to the Scottish national war memorial, built after the last war on the prominent Castle Rock which overlooks from its dizzy prominence the whole city. There in an indescribably beautiful and appropriate setting are to be found the names of the men and women of Scotland who laid down their lives in world war No. 1. Above a bronze plaque on one of its many walls of stone are these words: In honour of all Scotswomen who amid the stress of war sought by their labour, sympathy and prayers to obtain for their country the blessings of peace.

Section agreed to.