

a very small proportion, a fraction of one per cent, of English-speaking men who have French names, as was the case with one officer at Hong Kong. But that would work both ways. There are some men with English names who do not speak English at all, while there are other men with French names who do not speak French, and the proportion in each case would be about the same. What I want to know is the number of French-Canadians who have enlisted in the army, and I have asked the minister for that information. I have already made that request, and if it is impossible to get an answer I think that is wrong and unfair, not only to the province of Quebec but to French-Canadians throughout the whole country. Why is it refused to us? We are entitled to that information.

Mr. RALSTON: It is not refused at all. I have told the committee; I have told the house and I have told the hon. member that the racial origin does not appear on the attestation papers. The idea now propounded by the hon. member, that of examining the names and taking those names to represent nationalities, would not give an accurate result, I do not propose to guess about a subject of this kind, and then have it said later that the figures were not correct. I say that to the hon. member. The only way to do it would be to take a census of each battalion and ascertain from the men themselves their racial origin; and at this stage of the war I have not regarded it as necessary to do that. I had an estimate prepared as to the time that would take, and I think even my hon. friend would be amazed to learn the time that would be required to have that done. One can see that you would have to go through all the battalions and inquire as to the racial origin of every man. That is why it has not been done; it has not been refused at all.

Mr. POULIOT: It is not done, but it is not refused. I may be making some progress there. But it is not impossible to get in touch with the men. The official in charge of the plebiscite got in touch with the men not long ago to ask them a silly question. Is it not much more important to know the racial origin of a man in the army? We must have it for the French-Canadians; we have a right to it. The minister questions the accuracy of taking the names. He knows, or he should know, that the proportion of English-speaking Canadians with French names is about the same as that of French-speaking Canadians with English names.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend may know that; I do not.

Mr. POULIOT: Well, let the minister learn that.

Mr. RALSTON: I would not take it from my hon. friend.

Mr. POULIOT: What I say is right. When the minister tried to give me the lie, it was all right, but never for more than twenty-four hours.

Mr. RALSTON: I ask my hon. friend to withdraw that. I did not suggest giving him the lie.

Mr. POULIOT: Is that unparliamentary, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think the correction of the minister takes care of the situation. The hon. gentleman said the minister had given him the lie. The minister says, "I did not give you the lie," and the statement of the minister stands.

Mr. POULIOT: I thank you, sir, and I congratulate you upon your ruling, which is true to the old British traditions. The other day I quoted what was said, not by a civilian but by a most distinguished soldier, General Browne, about the possibility of the invasion of this country. I repeat it for the benefit of my dear friend the leader of the opposition, who has just come down from heaven, to use a euphemism. This was also quoted by the hon. member for Vancouver South, as reported at page 1905 of *Hansard*, when he said:

I think General Browne gave the picture quite clearly when he was quoted as saying at that time:

"The reserve force may have to fight and it must be ready to fight as soon as possible," he said.

"After all, there is no more war overseas than there is here now, and we may have some here sooner than they have, in view of the threats to our coast."

That was the opinion of a general. Here is the opinion of a civilian, which has been enlarged upon in an editorial appearing in the *Ottawa Citizen* of September 3, 1941:

Jean Francois Pouliot, member for Témiscouata, wrote with characteristic vigour in *Le Saint Laurent* (Rivière du Loup) on "The French-Canadian War Effort." The doughty champion of French-Canada's article is reprinted in part elsewhere on this page to-day.

That was what I read just a few moments ago, before the hon. member for York-Sunbury thundered so vigorously.

Perhaps there is need to keep the English-speaking people of Canada better informed on French-Canada's contribution to the war effort. It would compare favourably in the war industries as well as in the number of enlisted men. It would at least help to offset a prevalent