

reason is to keep them away from home, to have another excuse for not giving them an opportunity to go back to the farms during the season of the year they are most needed. There is another man from my county, the son of a settler, who is at York island, British Columbia. These men do not object at all to defending their country, but a distinction should be made between trainees and soldiers. We have no defence at all in our part of the country. When the minister found that the defences in British Columbia were unsatisfactory he took some boys from Témiscouata and sent them there, and he did the same thing for the defence of Nova Scotia. Of course they are good men, but that is no reason for dealing with them as they have been dealt with. I bring this matter not only to the attention of the minister but also before this committee. I hope that when a wrong is revealed, that wrong will be redressed and those guilty of committing it will not be deified.

Here is another matter. The other day I was told that I had taken too long in mentioning the numerous branches of the Department of National Defence. It is not my fault that they are so numerous; I tried to be as brief as possible. I wanted to know what was the purpose of each branch and what was the cost of it, but I received no answer. The answer was given over the radio, at the expense of the Canadian people. Instead of giving the information here in the committee, so that it might be recorded in *Hansard*, the minister went on the air once more, and in a broadcast addressed to "Fellow Canadians" he said:

Now on my shoulders rests the responsibility for seeing that the men and women for the army are raised, and clothed, and housed, and fed, and paid, and kept in good health, and equipped, and transported, and trained, and used where and how and when they can best be used to help to win this war.

That was on his own responsibility. Then in the following paragraph he said that those who had the responsibility for it would speak over the air again to give further news and more explanations. In the first place it was the minister who had the responsibility, he said, but then he went to to say that those who were really doing the work would explain what was being done.

I want to mention just a few facts to-day concerning my French-speaking compatriots of the province of Quebec and what they have done in the army. I had an opportunity to summarize, some time last summer, in an article published in the best weekly in Canada, *Le Saint Laurent* of Rivière du Loup, what has been done by French-Canadians since the

beginning of the war. That article was translated and published in other newspapers, including the *Ottawa Citizen*. Two months after statistics were sent to a number of officials in the Department of National Defence with regard to French-Canadians—of course I waited for two months—I published this article to show my Canadian fellow citizens that the province of Quebec and French-speaking Canadians at large throughout this country were doing their share in this war, as they did in the last war. That article appeared on July 31 last, and part of it was reprinted in the *Ottawa Citizen* of September 3. Some figures are given and some facts stated. The translation goes on to say:

A Tory organ, referring to the subject of voluntary enlistment in Quebec, has recently suggested that "the time has come to make known the figures of enlistment by provinces." Will it not be fairer to make the comparisons between the war effort of the French-speaking Canadians and that of the English-speaking Canadians?

In the first place, the evidence of true history is there to prove that in 1914-1918 there was not a single unit without French-Canadians. They numbered 3,000 in the first contingent; but at that time General Sam Hughes refused to allow them to form a regiment.

It is true that the second contingent contained the immortal 22nd Regiment, made up exclusively of French-Canadians; but there were also a great many French-Canadians in the English regiments of Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, particularly in the Tenth of Calgary (now the Calgary Highlanders), of which R. B. Bennett was the honorary colonel. Our compatriots, however, were given no credit for this because there were no French-Canadian officers in those regiments.

In two English regiments, the R.M.R. (Royal Montreal Regiment) and the 87th (Canadian Grenadier Guards), there was respectively a company composed of French-Canadian officers and men. In two other regiments of our province the proportion of French-Canadians was very high; but they were all rankers. There were no French-Canadian officers in the Royal Highlanders of Canada or the Victoria Rifles. In the latter regiment French-Canadians formed at least one-half of the strength and it was, apparently, as a posthumous homage to a considerable number of them that the regiment's flags were lodged in the Church of Notre Dame in Montreal.

We must hope that the errors of the past will not be repeated indefinitely.

It must not be forgotten that in the present war the Maisonneuve Regiment was the first to mobilize, among all Canadian regiments.

A comparison between the total enlistments up to last spring (1941)—one year and a half after the start of the war—and those of twenty-five years ago, for the same period of the great war, shows that throughout Canada the figure was 18 per cent below that of the former period, while for this present war the enlistments in Quebec province have increased by 58 per cent.

The number of voluntary enlistments in our province is already at the present time greater