

that resolution in favour of the eleventh and never for one moment thought of any other day. I do not know what the wording is, because I have not read it, but I do remember that the eleventh of November was the day asked for by the Dominion command, a body which represents between 80,000 and 100,000 people in Canada. I suggest that we should settle this matter now, get through with it, get it out of the way and turn our minds to other business. Let us make the eleventh of November Armistice day. The members of the legion will never be content with the present arrangement. Annually the question comes up, "Why celebrate this day? It is not our day". On November 11th they visit our cenotaph and a celebration is held there and then. No matter what happens the eleventh is the day on which we hold the celebration, and the day on which we will continue to hold it.

Mr. R. K. SMITH (Cumberland): I wish to express my approval of the principle of this bill. I do hope however that when we reach the committee stage the suggestion made by the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Dickie) and the recommendation of the executive of the legion respecting the change of the name from Armistice day to Remembrance day will be kept in mind. In my humble judgment, in order to have this day fittingly observed there should be some statutory enactments with respect to it similar to those under the Lord's Day Act. In recent years this holiday has been one not of commemoration but of celebration, and in my judgment we all should frown upon the practice which has been followed in that respect. Armistice day is the one day in the year which should be observed and commemorated more than any other. I do hope that the comments which have been made during the discussion of this bill will be kept in mind so that when it reaches the committee stage suggestions may be offered whereby the day may be fittingly observed and provision made for its proper commemoration in the future.

Mr. B. M. STYTT (Nelson): I wish to place myself on record as heartily endorsing this bill. I think the legislation is long overdue. I agree in every detail with the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan). The commemoration of Armistice day should be held on November 11th, not the ninth, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth or any other day. It was on the eleventh of November that the Armistice was signed, and I am satisfied as a returned soldier

and a member of the legion that the returned soldiers throughout Canada want the commemoration to be held on November 11th, whether it be called Remembrance day or otherwise. That is the day which should be celebrated; that is the day the returned soldiers want to celebrate, and I am pleased to support a bill which will make such commemoration possible. I congratulate the hon. member who introduced the bill.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): At this stage I shall not delay the house because it is more important to have the bill passed than to make speeches.

The feeling of the house has been generous, and I have only one comment to make. One hon. member suggested that it would be desirable to delay, to let the matter lie a little longer.

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.

This matter has been before the country and before the house for years, and there is no need for further postponement. For six weeks the bill has been before the house, and if hon. members cannot grasp the meaning of a bill of only three sentences in that time they should be able to do so.

The same hon. member said that he did not speak for the soldiers; I think I can say in all good faith that I can. Here is one of the many communications I received.

Britannia branch Canadian Legion, Victoria with nearly five hundred members strongly supports your efforts to have Armistice day observed November eleventh and no other. Wish you every success in your endeavours to have an objective of Canadian Legion of British Empire Service League for many years attained at this session.

I hope Mr. Speaker, that the vote will be unanimous and will show that, regardless of party or sect or any other consideration, we in this house are united to grant to the soldiers this measure of consideration. They have asked for it and I think after all they are entitled to get it.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On section 1.

Mr. DICKIE: In deference to the wishes of the headquarters of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League I wish to introduce an amendment. I think it has been thoroughly conceded by the house that Armistice day should be separate from Thanksgiving day. To my mind it is a day not of