

of us are coming back after the next election. I want you to pay particular attention to that point because I am going to refer to it a few minutes later.

My real reason, Mr. Speaker, for taking my stand to-day is to register my deep regret that no mention has been made in the speech from the Throne of further measures for the re-establishment of our returned soldiers other than those measures already in operation. After all the work that was done and all the evidence that was produced last year, and after we had been told that the door was not closed upon the returned soldiers, I had hoped to find something constructive along the lines of further re-establishment forecasted in the speech from the Throne this session. It does appear, and becomes more strongly manifest every day, that if the returned man wants anything he must fight, fight the whole time. From an eight-dollar allowance for his clothing up to thirty-five dollars, for pensions, it is fight, fight. That should not be, and I desire particularly to register my protest that mention of re-establishment has again been omitted from the speech from the Throne. Neither is there any mention of insurance nor anything for students, nor any comprehensive plan, and this despite the existing unrest. With your permission I shall read an extract from an editorial which appeared in a paper called *The Link* published in Edmonton by the Rev. H. A. Edwards. I do not know the gentleman but he covers rather well the situation amongst the great body of veterans with whom I am particularly associated. The editorial is headed "The Discontented Element," and it starts as follows:

The following extract from the Ottawa *Ford* despatch to the Edmonton *Journal* illustrates the kind of attitude towards returned men and their problems, with which we dealt at some length in these columns last month:

"It is generally understood that the discontented element of the returned men will renew the agitation for an increased gratuity at the coming session, although there is no probability of any change in the attitude of the Government in the matter. Positions have been found for nearly all those who desire them, and the total amount spent out of the forty million dollars appropriated has been less than one-tenth that amount."

Upon this paragraph the article comments in these terms:

As usual, the very wording of the reference to the soldiers' re-establishment proposals is purposely calculated to present both them and their suggestions in an unfavourable light. In a single contemptuous phrase are grouped together, without distinction, both the statesman-

[Mr. Andrews.]

like members of the advisory committee on re-establishment, whose carefully considered proposals were so summarily dismissed; and the extreme and unrepresentative Harry Flynn section; all are equally bad, entirely undeserving of any serious consideration; so they are quickly kicked into a fitting chamber of oblivion, the door slammed, and the epitaph written on the outside: Beware the Discontented Element!

It would almost seem as if, in the minds of those who "inspire" these sort of despatches discontent were a vice. Dissatisfaction with things as-they-are must, according to these gentlemen, always come from below, never from above.

Such a position is untenable. It denies all reform and inhibits all progress. It would brand as undesirables most of the greatest names in history. All down the ages thousands of men and women have been "discontented" with conditions affecting the lives of those about them, and have sought to relieve those conditions. Always there were those who scoffed, and those who opposed, abusing and impugning their motives, though later generations erected monuments in gratitude to their memory.

It is the same to-day, abuse is cheap, and misrepresentation easy. Readers of the *Link*, however, will not be misled by this kind of thing. In these districts at any rate, we are in too close touch with the returned boys to feel anything but intense indignation at the persistent propaganda so sedulously intent on discrediting their position, and alienating sympathy from them. We resent it, and we believe that this resentment is widespread and general, and may unpleasantly astonish the party politician when the time comes for the next vote to be taken.

The foregoing are the comments of an outsider who covers fairly well my own view on the subject.

I may say that I have a letter here from a man who had the honour to serve in the regiment so splendidly commanded by the member for Skeena (Mr. Peck). He went overseas as a private and by good luck and good service, after being wounded twice, eventually became Captain and Adjutant of his battalion. Before the war this man was a railway mail clerk and enlisted in 1914 in another three months his examination fell due—which would have given him civil service pay during his entire military service which lasted over five years—but he did not wait to take that examination before going overseas. If he had been a good business man, a cautious man, if he had waited and protected his own interests before the interests of the country, he would not have been at Ypres in 1915 with his comrades, and if that division had not been there we would not have been here to-day—or if we had been here we would have been saluting his nibs the Kaiser. That is the universal opinion of the military men to-day. But this man did not wait, he jumped into the fight.