

Ottawa. I should like the matter to be referred to the committee, however, in the hope that section 10 may be eliminated from the bill, and that the amendment to section 11 as introduced to the house yesterday may be confirmed. When section 10 was under discussion in committee I expressed my sentiments in regard to the purpose of that section. I should like to repeat my views however in regard to statements made yesterday concerning the possibility of retaining returned soldiers' preference. I think the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) has given a good illustration of how matters have worked out. We have seen how a similar pious wish has worked out in regard to appointments made by the legislature of Ontario. I am quite satisfied that no matter what regulations are framed, when it comes to actual operations the matter of returned soldiers' preference will work out in the present instance as it worked out in the province of Ontario, as described by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I am exactly in the same position as my hon. friend from Lisgar. I cannot support the motion because I am opposed to deleting from the bill the amendment carried yesterday.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The same here.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the minister in charge of the bill would take this opportunity to make a statement. He did not speak before, because already he had moved third reading. I do not wish to repeat my statements of yesterday with regard to the assurance which should be given to returned soldiers, but as the house seems to be quieter than it was when I spoke previously I should like to repeat a few statements. May I point out that in the year 1920 a resolution was passed unanimously by the Ontario legislature to the effect that returned soldiers would receive the preference in all permanent positions. In the riding I have the honour to represent they are not getting it. I should like to pass over to the minister a letter which will indicate what is going on. I do not wish to make it public because in my opinion the condition it discloses is a disgrace. This letter from the Canadian Legion at Fort Frances indicates what is going on. I am not blaming the government, because I feel sure neither the Prime Minister nor any other member of the government would tolerate what is happening among the ranks of their own followers. I should

like to pass this letter over to the minister so that he may have an opportunity of reading it; it is not my desire to make it public at this moment, because the matter is altogether too disgraceful. I am convinced when the minister sees what is contained in it he will realize why I have taken this position. The resolution passed by the Ontario legislature was unanimous; and I regard it as an order of the house. Notwithstanding that fact the returned soldiers are not receiving preference in that district. It may be that in the town of Kenora the members of the legion are satisfied—I doubt it—but hon. members must bear in mind that the district of Kenora is very large, and positions may be filled without returned soldiers in other parts of the district knowing anything about them or getting consideration.

The position of sheriff is a district position; the sheriff appointed is a very eminent citizen, notwithstanding the fact that he is a Conservative. He is not a returned soldier. The position of district registrar has been vacant twice, and is now filled by a gentleman who is not a returned soldier. The mayor of Kenora, the gentleman who has sent telegrams to the effect that I deliberately falsified facts, has only recently received his appointment. I regard that appointment as compensation for the telegrams he sent out saying that I was not telling the truth in eastern Canada with respect to such matters as I am now speaking about. He is not a returned soldier. So far as I can understand the persons who will make recommendations to the Postmaster General are those who are now recommending to the provincial government the appointment of men who are not returned soldiers.

Yesterday the minister in charge of the bill took a very fair position. I think if the Conservative executive, the member for the district, or the defeated candidates are to make the recommendations with respect to the filling of positions the government ought to let that fact be known. Otherwise, I may have to vote that the bill go back into committee.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): The letter which the hon. member has shown to me does not deal with federal affairs. I cannot deal with Ontario political affairs, because I am not responsible therefor in any way.

Mr. HEENAN: But the minister will see—

Mr. CAHAN: Therefore, the complaints made in this letter, which I am not allowed to read to the house, are complaints of which I cannot take cognizance.

With regard to the bill now before the house, it provides that the preference estab-