

race in language which I would not repeat. If any trouble happens it will be the fault of these people. I do not say that all the English-speaking people are like that. He was only one, but he insulted the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lemieux). I had for witness Mr. Ashby, a member of the Quebec Legislature. He was sitting next to this soldier, and said it was terrible to listen to him. I know the Minister of Militia is a gentleman and does not like trouble, and I ask him to give instructions to his officers in the different cities that the soldiers must not provoke the French Canadians and incite them to fight. I will try to stop these meetings that are advertised in to-night's papers. If I am obliged to go on the platform I will go. But I will allow no more meetings. If anything happens it will be the fault of the Prime Minister, through passing this conscription law without giving the people a chance to pronounce upon it by means of a referendum. It is not only the people of Quebec who are opposed to this law, but the people of every province in Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the people are going to do all that it is possible to do when you try to get them to enlist. You cannot put that law into force. The people will not enlist, and you have no way of locating them as the different classes are called. If anything happens in Montreal, I shall be very sorry, because I do not like trouble; but if any trouble happens the soldiers will be responsible for it. The minister must stop the soldiers from drinking, because when they are drunk they do not know what they are doing, and they are trying to force the French Canadians to fight. I have often said to the soldiers, "Do not do that. What is the use of it"? I respect the soldier, especially those who have fought for the flag. I repeat, it is not only the French Canadians of Quebec who are against the conscription law, but the people of every province from the Atlantic to the Pacific. If anything happens, if blood flows in the streets of Montreal or any other city, the fault will be with the Prime Minister and with those who helped him pass that law.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I think we have just had, possibly without exception, the most remarkable exhibition that has ever taken place during the whole history of Canada. The mayor of the greatest city in Canada, present in this Parliament, knows that for the past two weeks statements have been made at public meetings and statements

[Mr. M. Martin.]

have been published in the press which demand his presence in that city in order that he may see that the law is observed by all its citizens. Instead of that we have him here to-night making statements that are not a credit to the representative of any constituency in this Dominion. He has tried to put the blame for the condition that exists in Montreal and in the province of Quebec on a returned soldier, on the Prime Minister, on the Minister of Militia and particularly on some resident of the province of Ontario. A more inflammatory speech was never made by the representative of a constituency in the whole history of Canada. A greater responsibility rests upon the mayor of that city than upon any other person to see that the people are given to understand that they cannot violate the law. We have heard from another hon. gentleman from the same city to-night (Mr. Verville). He points to the flag and says: "This is a free country, we should enjoy free speech, and if we cannot enjoy free speech then tear the flag down." The free speech that we are complaining about is not the free speech that ought to be tolerated by the Mayor of Montreal or by any representative that we have present in this House to-night. He tries to inflame the passions of the people of that city by saying that somebody from the province of Ontario is responsible. During this session we have had speaker after speaker from the province of Quebec trying to make excuses for their province and putting the blame upon Ontario for the fact that Quebec has not done its duty, a fact which has made it necessary to enforce the Military Service Act. If that province had done its duty, as other provinces have, it would not have been necessary to put that law on the statute book. But it is the law of the country today, and yet you find the representative of the great city of Montreal trying to make it appear that the Prime Minister is the guilty party and that to him is attributable the condition of affairs in the province of Quebec and in the city of Montreal. He also blames a returned soldier. He says that the remark of a returned soldier could set the whole city on fire. He speaks about a returned soldier in the gallery.

Mr. MARTIN: I did not say that he was a returned soldier.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: You said that he was a man in uniform.

Mr. MARTIN: Yes, right here.