

plain. There is a differentiation between the man who is willing to go active and the man who will not go active.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Exactly the same condition applies to the air force.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): These are all on active service. They all have to get the consent of the commanding officer or they do not get the dependents' allowance. The young man in the reserve army, if that is the proper term, cannot get that dependents' allowance unless he goes active. That is what I am told is the practice. I will ask the minister to have an examination to see if the thesis I have attempted to lay down is correct. If so, I am going to ask him to have the position corrected, because there should not be a distinction between the two.

Mr. RALSTON: I say to my hon. friend that my instructions are—because he has used strong language—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): No.

Mr. RALSTON: What he has said he has founded upon a statement of fact which I am questioning seriously. I have in my hand the regulations for the reserve army, special, which have to do with these recruits, and it is provided that the recruit is entitled to dependents' allowance; that is the home defence man. He is entitled to dependents' allowance when he marries with the consent of the commanding officer, and I am instructed that exactly the same provisions apply to the active man—that he does not get the dependents' allowance unless he gets the consent of his commanding officer.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The man who is active will get the consent; the man who is not active will not get it.

Mr. RALSTON: I challenge my hon. friend to produce a case in which a young man has been refused consent because of the fact that he was on home defence, and told that he had to enlist and go active.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am not going to give the case because that man will be a marked man.

Mr. RALSTON: Before my hon. friend made a statement of that kind he should have submitted the case to me. He has indulged in considerable rhetoric to-night on the basis of a statement of facts which I say I challenge in the most positive way from instructions which I have received. Exactly the same treatment, under the regulations, is laid down for both active and home defence men.

Neither can get the dependents' allowance if he marries without the consent of the commanding officer.

Mr. POULIOT: I rise as a peacemaker. I rise in order to afford the hon. leader of the opposition and the hon. Minister of National Defence an opportunity to make love to each other as they do every time I speak. There is a saying that history repeats itself. We will go back twenty-five years. I will not say what has happened in the meantime, but I have in my hand a book, the "Life of Sir Wilfrid Laurier," by Oscar Douglas Skelton, and at page 546 of volume II I see that

the first shock to the sanguine supporters of the conscription act of 1917 came when it was found that of 404,000 of the first-class of unmarried men, from twenty to thirty-four, who had registered by the end of 1917, 380,000 had claimed exemption.

It states:

The next shock came with the announcement that there were 118,000 claims for exemption from Ontario as against 115,000 from Quebec (out of 125,000 and 117,000 registrants). Local tribunals, particularly in Quebec, were charged with being farcically lax; on the other hand the military representatives appealed nearly every exemption in Quebec, but allowed 90,000 in Ontario to go unopposed.

That is what happened during the last war. I have now the Montreal *Standard* of April 18 saying:

Enlistments increase with French-Canadians swelling army units.

While results of the plebiscite on April 27 are awaited, officials of the army recruiting depot at 1121 St. James street west disclose that recruiting has been picking up since the first of the month. The daily rate of enlistments has not only been increasing, but the percentage of French to English-speaking recruits has also been rising steadily.

During the month of January the average daily numbers of enlistments in all branches of the army was about 46; during February, when the question of the plebiscite was first raised, the daily average dropped to 36, and during March to 33.

The ratio of French-speaking recruits to English has steadily increased. In January it was approximately 6 to 5, in February about 5 to 3, and in March about 5 to 2.

There is one thing I regret deeply; it is that in all places where young boys go to enlist there is no picture of the commander in chief of the Canadian army, His Majesty the King. I wrote to the Department of National Defence asking if they were placing in those recruiting offices pictures of their majesties, and especially of the commander in chief of our army, His Majesty the King, and the answer was, "No; if they want any picture of the kind they have to pay for it." I think it would be much more useful to place