

*War Appropriation—Army*

"Another problem that will have to be faced is housing accommodation for the returned soldier and his family after the war. I hope the minister will not be unmindful of the housing situation that is bound to develop and I trust he will take it up with the other ministers.

Mr. RALSTON: The hon. member spoke about the records office and improving the system with particular reference to the municipalities. Does he mean that there should be some registration on the attestation paper with regard to municipalities? I want to see if any change ought to be made, so that it be made right away. I want to get my hon. friend's idea about it. Perhaps he would write me with regard to the improvement of the record system, so that it might be of some benefit to the municipalities.

Mr. CHURCH: The minister will recall my letters, and I admit that there have been improvements made, but the improvements do not go the whole length of the way. For instance, on the attestation paper the residence is given, such as the city of Toronto, and the street number is given and the names of the parents. I believe that if my suggestion were adopted it would be a great help to the municipalities. As it is now, people on the lakeshore road and in West York and South York say they belong to the Toronto district, and the city of Toronto has to provide accommodation that no other municipality does. After the last war a great many soldiers headed into Toronto from all over Canada, because they believed it was the place where employment might be found.

Mr. GREEN: When the minister made his statement the other day he dealt with the whole military policy of the government on the basis that there were two fronts, the European front and the North American front.

Mr. RALSTON: There are two fronts in North America.

Mr. GREEN: It may have been an oversight, but the minister did not deal with the Pacific front. There is a war on the Pacific which may be a very serious one for Canada, and the minister should give the members some idea of the military policy of the Canadian government with regard to the Pacific war. In my remarks the other night I said what I thought about it and made certain suggestions, but the minister has said practically nothing throughout this whole debate concerning Canada's share in the war on the Pacific. I would ask him to tell us to-night the policy of the Canadian government with regard to the Pacific war.

[Mr. Church.]

Mr. RALSTON: What I want to say to my hon. friend is that the government regards this war as just one war, not two wars. Our policy with respect to Japan is that whatever we can do within our power to help defeat Japan we shall do just as we intend to do it in regard to Germany. I cannot make any more definite statement than that for reasons which I think my hon. friend and the committee will understand. There is only one war in the mind of the government, not two, and we propose to follow that course.

Mr. GREEN: I pointed out the other night the position we are in with regard to our Canadian army on the Pacific, that it is almost entirely a home defence army. I pointed out that no unit and no men had been sent to Australia in order to get battle experience against the Japanese, and apparently no men had been sent to the Aleutian islands for that purpose. We are entitled to know whether the government intends to continue fighting a defensive war on the Pacific or whether it does not. The people of Canada, certainly those who live on the Pacific slope, are entitled to know the policy of the government. The British have been very straightforward and have told the Americans that they intend to stand behind them until Japan has been conquered. Canada has made no such statement—

Mr. RALSTON: I made exactly the same statement just a moment ago.

Mr. GREEN: —although we were the first to declare war on Japan. Is it the policy of the Canadian government to fight a defensive war on the Pacific, or is it not?

Mr. RALSTON: I cannot make any statement further than the one I have already made, and if my hon. friend will look at what I have said he will realize that I have gone just about as far as anyone has gone in connection with the war against Japan, which as I say is only part of the war against Germany.

Mr. GREEN: You have not gone very far.

Mr. RALSTON: I have stated that Canada stands in this war against Japan just as she does against Germany, and that anything within her power that she can do to help defeat Japan she will do. That is exactly the same statement that my hon. friend says was made by Britain. I do not propose to say anything about sending an expeditionary force or anything of that sort. The government has fully in mind the fact that Japan is our enemy just as much as Germany.