

*Family Allowances*

and does not call an election too soon, I hope that he will consider some decoration or consideration for the families who have sent all their sons, either one son or more, because the mother and father who give their only son cannot do any more, and the man who sends all seven sons—oh, I cannot see anything for him but the kindest consideration when he has made a contribution of that magnitude.

I am not clear as to just where the father, a young Canadian who was born and raised here and who went to England and married an English girl, or an old country girl, English, Irish, Scotch or Welsh, or whatever it may be, and has children over there, fits into this picture. I cannot see why his children should not come under this legislation. If they do not I hope the Prime Minister, because he has a big heart, is generous and has as much love for these children as anyone in the country, will look after this matter. I cannot think of him barring a child born of a Canadian father overseas.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is no intention that I know of. I do not know whether my hon. friend is referring to cases of children who continue to live abroad indefinitely. That, I think, would have to be provided against. But certainly from the moment a child is back in Canada it will apply.

Mr. MacNICOL: They will be over there for two or three years. Their father is still a Canadian; he cannot come back. I know quite a number of them, the Seggie boys, for instance, who have been over there for four years, one of them for almost five years. If they married and had children over there they would be Canadian children in every sense of the word. Fathers cannot come back. The state does not want them to come back. The state wants them to stay there to do their manly duty in winning this war. They want to stay there to win this war. If the bill is not clear on that I have no doubt that it will be cleared up. I just wished to say a word on that. I did not speak on the second reading of the bill. Had I spoken I would have dealt with that aspect of it. I had no intention of rising to oppose the bill.

One other suggestion was made by my leader, who himself endeavoured to take part in the last war. I do not know whether or not he was overseas, but I do know that he endeavoured to get into the army. In the course of his speech he suggested something with which I am heartily in accord. It may not be possible to accomplish, but I hope the Prime Minister will give it consideration. The suggestion was that this legislation be made applicable at once to the children of the

[Mr. MacNicol.]

soldiers who are on active service to-day, many of whom have been wounded and gone to hospital, and some of whom have died. I understand that under the dependents' allowance legislation the government has complete power to make this legislation applicable to the families of those soldiers at once, and I do not see why that should not be done. I do hope the Prime Minister will find some way of making this measure operative as soon as possible with respect to the children of soldiers serving in any theatre of war.

I believe that is all I have to say. I had just those two thoughts, in regard to children born to Canadian parents overseas and children of soldiers on active service. If some way could be found to permit them to obtain these benefits immediately, I think that would be a wonderful step in the right direction. I do not see why they should have to wait until next year. Our men overseas are going through what tongue cannot describe. All we see is pictures in our daily press or illustrated magazines. How human hearts and flesh and blood can stand what these men are going through in the front line and on our fighting ships is something I cannot comprehend. God Almighty in his wisdom strengthened the hearts of humans to stand what must be stood, and out of respect for the great contribution these men are making I hope the government will be able to find some way to make this legislation applicable to the children of those men now.

Mr. CHURCH: For five minutes I wish to refer to the first section of the bill only. Last night I gave my views on the totalitarian and socialistic aspects of the matter dealt with in this legislation. I gave qualified support to this measure on second reading because I believe it will help the small wage-earners who have large families and who are suffering at the present time. I have seen the situation as it exists in the Toronto district. The large number of members we have on this side of the house came from the province of Ontario, and mainly the Toronto district which is suffering most at the present time because of a lack of housing accommodation. I urge the government to call a conference immediately with the provinces and the larger municipalities with regard to this bill. The bill was not referred to any committee. I do not want to say anything now that might cause differences of opinion here, because the house has approved the principle of the bill, but I wish now to urge the government to take action along four or five lines.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, up to the present the municipalities have had to do the greatest share of the work in connection with