

up, my hon. friend must not put into my mouth statements that I have not made. I like the soldiers just as much as he does. I want this to be well understood. Whatever has happened, my hon. friend always refers to another province. I have mentioned the places where trouble has arisen, and it has arisen in Winnipeg, in Sydney, Cape Breton, and in Toronto. Surely I am not going to be accused of having had anything to do with that. When J. C. Watters addressed that meeting in Sydney he was simply exercising the right of all free citizens in this country, whether soldier or civilian.

Mr. ARTHURS: Does my hon. friend say that Mr. Watters had the right to express the views he did in Sydney?

Mr. VERVILLE: This is a free country. Hon. gentlemen are always bragging about the Union Jack and freedom of speech. Freedom of speech should, of course, be subject to certain restrictions, but if the Union Jack does not stand for freedom of speech it had better be removed from this House. I do not believe that any man should abuse this freedom; we should all keep within the law. We all know that there is a great difference in speakers; we see that in this House, where some are more fiery than others. We have to take into consideration the mentality of our citizens. If we do not like what is said by a speaker at a public meeting we do not have to take it; that is all. I was not present at the meeting in Sydney, but I know J. C. Watters pretty well, and in the reports I have seen of the meeting I have been unable to find that anything very wrong was said. I have seen Mr. Watters since the meeting, but have not asked him about it. But later in the year I shall be attending a labour convention in Ottawa, and I intend to find out exactly what was said. I believe in freedom of speech for all. Let the soldiers attend the meetings if they will, but let them behave like law-abiding citizens. They should always remember that a great many of our soldiers are labour men. There is absolutely no need for trouble of this kind.

Mr. MARTIN: I declare to this House and the country that the man who started the meeting against conscription and asked the people to revolt was a man from Ontario. His name was Villeneuve, and he came from St. Eugene in the county of Prescott.

Mr. ARTHURS: He knew enough to go to Quebec.

Mr. MARTIN: On the occasion of the first parade in the city of Montreal against the high cost of living, I permitted the citizens to make a demonstration on the condition that they would be quiet, but trouble was started by an assault made by a soldier. There were 25,000 people in the parade, and as it was going east on St. Catherine street a regiment of soldiers going north came along and the parade was stopped to allow the regiment to pass through. Just as the regiment had passed the last soldier snatched a French flag from

10 p.m. some one in the parade and threw it under his feet. The people in the parade had not said anything to the soldiers, and the trouble was all the fault of this soldier who tried to insult the French-Canadian people. There was a fight, and I do not know whether the soldier was killed, as I have not seen anything about it in the newspapers. I remember that a meeting at the park five weeks ago, which was called by me, was attended by 150,000 people. A soldier started to insult my hon. friend from Maisonneuve (Mr. Verville), who was giving an address. I did not want the people to attack the soldier, but I had a hard time saving him from injury. Eventually I got him to the car with some constables. I admit that the soldiers have the right to attend meetings, but they have no right to provoke the people. They are the ones who are making the noise. I do not allow anybody to make speeches such as have been made this week in Montreal. I do not allow anybody to preach revolt, because we have enough on our backs already with conscription. The minister must tell his soldiers to respect civilian citizens, not only in the city of Montreal, but everywhere else in the Dominion, and then there will be no trouble. The soldiers sometimes go in groups of twenty or fifty. I have often gone to them and said: "Boys, don't do that. Go back to your regiment. What is the use of trying to provoke the French-Canadians?"

In this House, when the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) was speaking against conscription, one man in uniform in the gallery used insulting language against the French-Canadian race and against the hon. member for Rouville, which I will not repeat in this House. He was drunk, and perhaps was not responsible for what he said. But think of it! A soldier right here in the House of Commons insulting the French Canadian