

*War Appropriation*

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am talking about a condition, and I am appealing to the minister to correct what I believe to be an improper position on the part of the military authorities. I can understand no more compelling reason to induce a man to enlist than that he shall be granted the right to marry, or I can understand no more discreditable position for a government department to take than to refuse permission to marry, other things being equal, unless he signs for foreign service on the dotted line. I do not think I am putting that case unfairly or too strongly. I suggest to the minister that it is a position which ought to be corrected. Undoubtedly these young soldiers should have the right to marry. In England they are encouraged to marry. I am told that there are 400 marriages a month among Canadians in England. That is all to the good, and we shall get some new blood in the country in the times that are to come, I hope. But marriage or no marriage, it should not be conditioned on a man's willingness to serve overseas or his unwillingness to do so.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: He is no good if he will not serve.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Please allow me to make my statement. I suggest to the minister that it is a position of which this country should not be proud, a position of which the department should not be proud. It is a position which the department should correct. Either a man is entitled to the right to marry on the merits of his own position, or he is not. He is entitled to marry or not to marry, irrespective of his willingness or unwillingness to serve overseas in the active army. I object to the position that has been taken. I do not think it is a proper position; I do not think it is a dignified position for this country to occupy. I have termed other positions the back-door route. I will withdraw that, and say that this is an indirect route to compulsion, to compulsory service, conscription. If we are going to have conscription let us have it, but let us have it by the proper methods. I ask the minister first of all if I have not correctly stated the position; I ask him, does he think it is a proper position, if so; and if he does not think it is a proper position, then I ask him to have it corrected.

[Mr. Cruickshank.]

Mr. RALSTON: Let me say to my hon. friend that I never heard of such a regulation or provision or instruction, implied or expressed. I have in front of me the—

Rights and obligations of the R recruit.

While an R recruit is attached to the training centre and until the normal time at which he should have arrived at his destination, the R recruit, except as otherwise provided in these regulations, shall have all rights, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to pay and, if eligible therefor, dependents' allowance, provided, however, that if he reported to the basic training centre prior to July 1, 1941, and married subsequent to the time of his so reporting, he will be eligible to claim dependents' allowance in respect of such marriage and from the date thereof only on receiving the consent of his commanding officer to such marriage and on becoming a member H.D. of the Canadian army immediately on his ceasing to be attached to the training centre.

If my hon. friend knows of any instructions issued, which intimate to any commanding officer that he shall not give consent to marry unless a man enlists for active service, I should like to know.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I will not give the minister the case. I refuse to do so in the interests of the man himself. I will not do it because the man will be a marked man always.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend said that he was not going to generate heat.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I won't.

Mr. RALSTON: I want to find out whether or not this is an isolated case or whether it is the rule. I am stating that I have never heard of such a thing. I am absolutely sure that no such instruction has been issued, and I say I am sure of that because I cannot imagine such an instruction being issued. The adjutant-general is here and he says that he has never heard of such an instruction. There may be an isolated case.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The young man may possibly marry without the consent of his commanding officer, but he may not get the dependents' allowance without the consent of his commanding officer.

Mr. RALSTON: That is so.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If he was taken into the draft after a certain date.

Mr. RALSTON: That is right.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): But if he will go active he will get the separation allowance; he will get the dependents' allowance. That is the condition of which I com-