

war when they gave the exact number of enlistments. I admit that it would be a hard thing to handle in the records office.

I hope the minister will be able to make a statement in connection with the inquest held at Sussex. Perhaps he could do this when his hard work in the house is finished. I should like to see the policy adopted of holding civilian inquests.

I should like also to have some statement made by the government as to our attitude after the war toward Germany and Japan. I do not want to see a repetition of what happened in the last war when so many pacifists said that we were not fighting the German people, that we were fighting the German government. Germany is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. We must not forget that Russia will not wait for any international trial boards. With Russia it will be a case of an eye for an eye and a limb for a limb. I believe it would be a good thing if Canada were to make a statement along these lines. We should make a statement about these barbarians in Japan, and let the people of Germany know that we are not going to wait for any international accord. Washington is two or three thousand miles away from the theatres of war, and Russia itself on the spot, will clean up the brutal axis gang. These matters will have to be dealt with promptly. Germany, Japan and the rest of them should be told now how they are to be dealt with so far as Canada is concerned.

I noticed a statement in the press yesterday that the representative of the British government in Canada had made a statement which I think should have come from a minister of the crown. I am not objecting to the statement, but I think the practice is entirely wrong to have a minister come back from England and make a statement about what General McNaughton is going to do about Canadian officers and referring to the work of developing new arms which had been carried out by the Canadian army. With all due respect, I think this statement should have come from a responsible minister of the crown. This country has had a good deal to do with improving the technical equipment of the Canadian army, the air force and the navy. I am speaking as a private member and not for the party. I remember when Lord Elbank came over here and made certain statements that war was near, and he was told to mind his own business.

In reply to what the hon. member for Cape Breton South has said, may I say that

I did not say that the universities were full of aliens. There are only 231 alien refugees, and according to the law everyone who is not a British subject is considered an alien. Three returns have been brought down by the minister, but a great deal of objection could be taken to the practice to which I referred. I hope the hon. member for Cape Breton South will read the returns. I think the practice is all wrong, and many of the soldiers overseas do not believe in it.

I have sent the minister many communications and letters containing complaints and other matters, but I do hope he will try to clean up this trouble which has arisen among the soldiers overseas in connection with their pay. I hope the government will announce a policy of equality for all, in connection with both the new pay and pay for the men in the lower ranks. They certainly deserve it.

There should be more civilian inquests held in connection with deaths in the military forces. Many of these matters could be better dealt with by means of civilian inquests. It would help recruiting to have municipal officers go into these matters.

During the last war while I was a Conservative; I did not have any politics, and the same is true of this war. At that time I found that there were no adequate hospitals in military district No. 2 at Toronto. The terrible influenza epidemic broke out, and nearly two hundred men were lying on the ground at Niagara camp during those terrible months of September, October and November, 1918. I got a young friend of mine into the Royal Air Force, and in about a week he was dead in his coffin.

When it was discovered that there was no hospital accommodation they wanted to open up the old base hospital on Gerrard street in Toronto. This hospital was not considered good enough for civilians, but they wanted to put the soldiers into that institution. There was a Royal Air Force camp at the university with three or four hundred men, many of whom caught the flu and died. As chairman of the police commission I insisted upon civilian inquests being held. I attended some of them myself and examined witnesses. I can tell the committee that a terrible state of affairs was shown to have existed, and finally hospital accommodation was provided. Civilian inquests would not only help recruiting but would bring out many matters.