

of which gave his statement a week ago to-day. After these two departments which have now been opened up have been disposed of in debate in committee, I would ask the government to consider seriously the question of allowing the Department of Labour to be taken up next. I make that request for this reason. During the debate in committee we have found ourselves handicapped in the discussion of man-power by reason of the fact that we have dealt with the subject in piecemeal fashion, and the Minister of Labour has expressed on two or three occasions the desire to get on and to give his remarks on the man-power question. We feel that man-power at the present time is perhaps the most important problem facing us in parliament and I should like to see the committee come to grips with it in a broad way rather than, as I have said, only in the piecemeal manner that has been possible so far. I should like to have the Prime Minister consider this suggestion and, if it is not possible, he might at least give us an undertaking that at the earliest opportunity the man-power situation will be brought up for discussion.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I would assume that the logical procedure would be to conclude with the departments of defence before taking up any other department. Munitions and supply is of course a department that is much concerned with the question of man-power. Whether it would be advisable to have that department taken up before the Department of Labour is a question which I should like to have a word about with my colleague, the Minister of Munitions and Supply, in conjunction with the Minister of Labour, but it might be understood that either of these two departments, as might best suit the convenience of hon. gentlemen opposite, could be taken up after the three defence departments are disposed of.

Mr. GRAYDON: I can understand the Prime Minister's position with respect to the three departments of defence. They may be interrelated in such a way as to make continuous discussion of the three desirable. I cannot agree, however, that munitions and supply should come before labour, because the man-power situation must be grappled with in the house and we cannot do it properly until the Minister of Labour makes his statement.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I was not suggesting that we would not proceed first with labour, but that in the absence of the Minister of Munitions and Supply I did not wish to make a definite statement.

WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

PROVISION FOR GRANTING TO HIS MAJESTY AID FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The house resumed from Thursday, May 27, consideration in committee of a resolution to grant to his majesty certain sums of money for the carrying out of measures consequent upon the existence of a state of war—Mr. Ilsley—Mr. Bradette in the chair.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. POULIOT: In order to save time I sent to the minister a copy of a memorandum with regard to one man who was described as a deserter. He was not guilty and the case was so bad that the department informed the provost marshal that the man did not have to report at all. The discussion of the estimates must be thorough, and that is impossible as long as we stick to theoretical questions and answers. We must get down to the facts; we must expose the facts as they are in these cases. That should be very easy, because I can refer the minister to the departmental files, and I have no objection to passing over my own files after *Hansard* is through with them. A few days ago I quoted some letters from various counties. I have others to-day. I need not take time to read them now but I will send them to the members representing the respective counties, so that they may deal with these matters.

There are some cases which are very interesting and very novel, and which would seem incredible if the quotations were not from official papers. Here is a file, No. 51-C-14, and another number Q-39-S-203. The number of the man is E-29326; I will not give his name. Six years before he enlisted he was working as a lumberman and struck his ankle with an axe, as a result of which he was deformed. Then he worked on a tractor and a tree fell on him, breaking his shoulder. As a result he was unable to carry a rifle on his shoulder, and he was totally unfit for military service. However, he was accepted, and on June 27, 1940, was transferred to Camp Borden. He wanted to transfer to depot No. 5, Quebec city, but was not allowed to do so. On August 20, 1940, Commander MacLachlan, who was then deputy minister, informed me that this man was to be discharged as unfit. I wrote Lieutenant-Colonel Mercier on August 28, 1940, and again on September 7, asking for a discharge for this man. On September 6, 1940, Colonel DesRosiers, whom I have found to be an excellent official of the department, informed me that this man was suffering from congenital mental