

The drafting of so entirely new and comprehensive a bill as this was an intricate and formidable task. It was undertaken by a team of service legal officers under the direct supervision of the Judge Advocate-General. This drafting team was assisted by a senior officer of each of the services who was in a position to advise authoritatively on the various service considerations which were continually arising. To all these officers and officials I express my unqualified thanks for the work they have done over the past two years.

I would point out that this undertaking represents a major development of the utmost complexity. After all, the work of the armed forces is work for our security. At the present time it involves altogether some 90,000 people in the armed forces, and in a state of war—as during the second world war—it involves the relationships of each member of those forces to his commanding officer, to the country and to the Crown, to a total number of about 1,200,000 individuals. The men and women in the services have all the kinds of human relationships that we as individual citizens have to one another, and they have added to them the particular relationship which comes from the fact that, in war or in peace, they are working full time for our security. So, in the drafting of this legislation, our knowledge gained in the first and second world wars of the kind of relationships which should exist between the members of the armed forces and the state, led us to believe that those associations could and should be improved, and that we should do something towards this all-important objective.

We must recognize that in our peacetime forces, living in camps across Canada, in communities which are isolated and far off, we have men who are doing an essential job for us, and that the conditions in which they are serving have changed out of all recognition from anything which was envisaged in 1868. Consequently we feel that the bill before you is not only important and desirable, but that it is essential in order to provide for the kind of relationship between the officers and men of the armed forces, the state, and the civilian population which the people of Canada want, and which in some small degree is a recognition of the experience and record of the Canadians who in two world wars helped to preserve the freedom of our country and restore peace to the world. It is true, I am sure, that this bill represents the sort of changes which most of our officers and men would wish to see brought about. In our presentation and in your consideration of this bill it should be borne in mind, I think, that the men of our armed forces possess not only the elements of good citizenship—this is

expected of them—but the qualities of the good soldier who serves his country all the time.

So we put this bill before you, not as a mere technical measure to improve a number of things which are out of date, not as something merely designed to reduce to more measurable and manageable contents, the very complicated provisions with which the law relative to our armed forces had become encrusted, but as a recognition that the work of Canada's armed forces is in the interest of all Canada all the time, and as such is deserving of the attention of its legislators and of all its people.

As I have said, in the preparation of this bill we had the advantage of the experiences of two wars and the assistance of a number of officers—some being lawyers, some not—who worked on it for two years. I do not know how long it is since a bill of this size has come before your honourable membership, but a glance over the statutes would indicate that it is some fifteen years. We have presented the bill to you upon the instructions of the government, feeling that it contains the result of the experience and knowledge of civilians engaged in law as well as of men who have had experience in the services; and we believe that you can help to make this as fine a piece of legislation in respect of the armed forces as has been introduced in this or any other country.

Drafts of the bill have not only been continuously under consideration by officers of the department and the services, but they have been examined by officials of the Departments of Justice and Finance. Many major points arose to which consideration was given by the Chiefs of Staff and Personnel Members Committee representing the three services. Moreover, the bill was under constant examination and consideration by myself and Mr. C. M. Drury, C.B.E.,—a former Brigadier-General in the service of Canada's armed forces, and now Deputy Minister of National Defence—as well as by the parliamentary assistants—the present Solicitor General, and the former member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare, Mr. Loran E. Baker, who served with distinction overseas and won the Military Cross. The extensive services and distinguished records of these three in the second world war were of the utmost value in the preparation of the bill.

In the Great War of 1914-19 I had some experience with this subject of military law. In the second World War I instructed officers and officer candidates in military law, and to help in this I prepared a booklet entitled "Military Law and Discipline for Canadian Soldiers". I have only been able to find one copy; otherwise I would circulate it among