

charge of any court dealing with misdemeanours or other crimes. I hope that provision will be made for the proper training in legal matters and human behaviour of such officers as may be in charge of the administration of these courts.

I think the minister has taken the proper step by referring this bill to a committee. I hope that the ultimate result of this consolidation will be to see many sections deleted. I understand there are about 250 sections at the present time and I should like to see them cut down to about 100 sections so that every soldier and officer in the army would have time to go through the act and understand it. It is impossible for any man to understand thoroughly the present act with its numerous sections. It should be simplified, so that every soldier could understand it and would know what punishment he faces when he breaks the regulations. I suggest to the minister that he simplify the act in every possible way.

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the discussion up to the present time. I think the hon. member who has just taken his seat indicated a wide and thorough knowledge of what he was talking about. In approaching the matter of defence it is extremely important that we rid ourselves of the impressions gained from wars in the past. We must realize that from the word "go", or even before the word "go," in the wars of the future it will be a case of total war. It will be an instantaneous war. It will be what the Germans called a blitzkrieg. It will be a global war. We shall be fighting all over the world.

If we keep those three facts in mind we shall be helped in attempting to assess the adequacy or inadequacy of the act before us. In a general way I have the impression that the act has been drafted with those three general principles in mind, but I am not so sure that we could not improve it in respect of some of these matters.

The fact that we shall be in a total war means that the citizens in every area ought to be trained for citizen defence. I have not gained the impression that provision has been made for that kind of training on the North American continent. I hope that provision is being made in this act or in the regulations based upon the act. I hope something is done before too long because there is no telling how soon we may be called upon to start to use such training.

The fact that it is going to be an instantaneous war means that we are not going to have time to build war plants, to stimulate the production of food and clothing and

shelter, to train precision toolmakers and all that sort of thing as we were in the previous war. We shall be faced with the necessity of having all these things in full running order to permit us to make a running start. I trust that provisions are being made by our Department of National Defence to meet the exigencies of that situation.

I am not so easy in my mind concerning this matter. One of our difficulties is that we cannot probe too deeply into the affairs of the department without calling on the minister to divulge information which it might not be in the public interest to divulge. But somehow or other the ordinary member of parliament like myself ought to have some special assurance that we are not going to have anything like the ghastly thing which confronted Great Britain in the last war when men were called upon to meet possible invasion armed only with pitchforks, and in some cases pitchforks without the tines. A thing like that must not be permitted to recur.

There is another serious danger by reason of the fact that the next war will be a global war. We shall not be able to keep the enemy concentrated anywhere. Before the last war we were ready to confine the enemy behind the Maginot line, but it turned out that he was anywhere except behind the Maginot line. No one today is unrealistic enough to hope to keep the enemy behind a Maginot line. But I wonder if we are taking all the precautions which ought to be taken against the possible isolation of considerable areas of our country which would render them completely helpless because of their being separated from all the means of sustenance which they ought to have.

On a previous occasion when we were discussing the matter of defence I took the opportunity of reminding the house that Great Britain divided that country into twelve divisions during the last war. The idea was to have each of those twelve divisions rather self-supporting so that, in case the other eleven divisions were occupied by the enemy, the one remaining division would be able to carry on and put up a good fight until assistance came. Up to the present time there has been, I believe, no attempt whatsoever to organize Canada into any such divisions. I am anxious lest three or four well directed blows paralyse the whole of Canada's war effort. I think that does not need to be the case, and we should take steps to see that it will not be the case. Of course I recognize that in the coming war we expect to be more or less under the wing of the United States, and consequently we