

see why any distinction should be made in this regard. All the forces of democracy and liberty were fighting on the one side against a common enemy and I do not see why different treatment should be accorded to different groups of men serving in the same cause. The Poles who are Canadian subjects but of Polish origin should not be treated differently from the French or the Belgians who are not Canadian subjects but who enlisted from Canada in their respective armies at the beginning of the war and who in respect of the Canadian Patriotic Fund were accorded the same treatment as that given our own Canadian soldiers. I was a member of that committee, and I remember that Mr. Nickle, ex-member of Parliament for Kingston, and Sir Herbert Ames were members of that committee. This was at the beginning of the war. There was enthusiasm and a desire to help all those who fought for the same cause and the same ideals.

Mr. EDWARDS: Did those French reservists who, on the outbreak of war, went overseas and joined French regiments, come under our payments of gratuities, the same as members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force?

Mr. LEMIEUX: What I mean is that their families came under the Patriotic Fund.

Mr. EDWARDS: But not under gratuities in the way of pensions and so forth.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I do not think so. At the beginning of the war it was unanimously resolved by the committee appointed by the House, that families of French and Belgian reservists should be treated as the families of our Canadian soldiers. They were thus treated throughout the whole war; but I believe the case brought up by the hon. member for Renfrew South (Mr. Pedlow) this afternoon is stronger. These are Canadian subjects of Polish origin, who, at a given moment, asked the Government for permission to serve under their national colours. They served for the same cause, the same ideals; they fought the same enemy, and many of them found a heroic death on the battlefields. Why should the Canadian Government treat them differently? We are a country of different races, different creeds. We invite the various populations of the earth to settle our country. Once the settlers have come to Canada, once they have been naturalized, once they have become of our stock, there should be no differ-

[Mr. Lemieux.]

ence in the treatment meted out to those new fellow-subjects of ours. I would strongly urge the Government and the committee to take the view so forcibly presented by my good friend from Renfrew South. The amount is not large. There were, I understand, only 200 of these soldiers who served under the Polish colours. It is only fair to give those people the same treatment as they would have received if they had served in the ranks under General Curriel. I will strongly support the position taken by my hon. friend from Renfrew South.

Hon. S. C. MEWBURN (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the remarks particularly of the Minister of Militia (Mr. Guthrie) and I entirely concur in what he said regarding these Canadian citizens of Polish origin. This matter should go back a little further. In 1918, a very large number of Poles were residing in the United States of America. A request came to the Canadian Government, through the War Office of the Imperial Government, that we should arrange some camping ground in Canada and arrange to feed and train some of these Polish citizens of the United States, under an arrangement whereby it would be necessary for them to enlist in the American Expeditionary Force, but permission was given to them to proceed to Canada. A camp was established at Niagara-on-the-Lake with Polish instructors who came from the United States, who understood and spoke the Polish language. The Canadian Government acted purely and simply as agent of the British Government which had been requested by the French Government to carry this into effect. The Canadian Army Service Corps ran the camp. Col. Le Pau was in charge of the camp. I am speaking from memory, but I think that more than 20,000 Poles came from the United States and were trained at Niagara-on-the-Lake. These particular men that were referred to desired and requested that they be permitted to be trained with the Poles who were training at Niagara-on-the-Lake. I do not think any particular Polish battalion was sent overseas. These men were sent over in drafts to France and they received pay and allowances the same as the French soldiers. I do not think my hon. friend will find some 20,000 American citizens of Polish origin, who were permitted to come over here and who did not serve in the American Expeditionary Force, are drawing pay and allowances from the American