

difference. I have no evidence, but I am told the same thing happened after World War I.

Mr. HERRIDGE: That is quite correct. I have seen it.

Mr. O'LEARY: Would they have any value in a pawnshop?

Mr. LALONDE: They have a value of over a dollar, and in the pawnshop they would probably have a value of 25 cents. That is certainly enough for a small meal.

Mr. MACDONALD (*Kings*): The other day you mentioned you were sending out these medals unregistered and it has occurred to me that sometimes they would get in the hands of the wrong persons, since they do not have to sign anything and could keep them.

Mr. BROOKS: I think it is quite a serious offence to wear a medal to which you are not entitled.

Mr. LALONDE: The other alternative, Mr. Macdonald, is to keep them in store in the war service records vaults. I think if we achieve only what we think we are achieving, and that is a distribution of about 75 per cent to the right persons we are doing a lot better than if we just leave them there. I think the cases of abuse of the use of medals are so few that this is not really one of the main considerations in the distribution.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the photographer has arrived. I think it would be advisable if we had the little ceremony recorded for posterity, particularly in view of the fact that the Minister of Veterans Affairs himself is going to make the presentation. The three members of the committee are Messrs. Carter, Pugh and O'Leary. That creates a nice distribution from a regional standpoint and otherwise.

I think, Mr. Minister, on this occasion you might like to say a few appropriate words.

Mr. BROOKS: Mr. Chairman, I might say that this is rather a different assignment from what I usually have. If I am to say a few words, I do not know just what I should say. Perhaps I should reprimand these old soldiers for a little neglect in duty in not having applied for these medals some time ago. However, I feel more inclined to compliment and congratulate them, with the hope that their example will be followed by the many thousands of others who have not applied for medals, because it does seem to me a singular situation that we have something like three or four hundred thousands persons who have not applied for medals.

I know there is a tendency among young soldiers returning from service to say, "What is a medal? The war is over; we won't bother about them." But when we are older and have children and grand-children we realize perhaps the medals have more significance and value than we first thought.

I think we all remember from our school days the passage in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" where he tells the old soldier who shouldered his crutch and showed how wars were won. We can take these medals and show our grandchildren how we won the war.

It gives me very great pleasure indeed to present these medals to these very distinguished veterans.

*Then followed the presentation of medals by the Honourable Mr. Brooks to Messrs Carter, O'Leary and Pugh.*

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, may we resume our deliberations.

I think this must mark a unique occasion in the veterans affairs committee. Perhaps Mr. Mutch could indicate whether there ever has been an informal investiture before.

Mr. MUTCH: I have been on committees since 1936 and I have not seen one.