

men who run the country. We are often told it is the province of Quebec, the minority of Quebec, that runs the country. It is that minority of bigoted fanatics who may be counted on the fingers of both hands who try to impress the government, as R. B. Hanson did during the war—who did more to impress the government than any other member of the house; so much so that he was praised to the limit by the Prime Minister, the leader of the Liberal party, and so much so that when the Tories made him a gift of a silver platter on his retirement they inscribed on it praise and eulogy from the Prime Minister.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I did not interrupt the hon. member for Temiscouata because I thought he should be allowed to reply to interruptions, but now that he has replied may I remind him and all members of the committee that the principle of the bill was approved on second reading and all remarks now should be strictly relevant to the clause under consideration.

Mr. MACKENZIE: These fifty-two men were all Canadians, all domiciled in Canada, some of them in the armed forces before they were selected for this special duty, and according to the laws of Canada for many years past Canadians who were domiciled in Canada before serving with the allied forces were entitled to all the benefits of other Canadians who served with our own forces. That is all this does. They are all Canadians, all among our own friends and comrades in the Dominion of Canada. That is all this bill seeks to do.

Mr. POULIOT: The question is not so much that of domicile as that of service. If they were serving in the Canadian army, it would be all right, but they were not under Canadian command. They were under British command, and it is precisely because their service was for the United Kingdom that the United Kingdom should pay them, whether they were domiciled in Canada or not.

Now I know very well that the press will come out with headlines: "Quebec member opposes grants for heroes who were picked out by the United Kingdom to serve in most difficult jobs during the war." It will come out like that. I do not oppose it because I come from Quebec, but because I find it nonsensical, and I would oppose it anywhere. I would speak outside the province of Quebec, speaking only to audiences of other origins than French, and say the same. It is not a question of race; it is a question of dollars and cents—

An hon. MEMBER: Publicity.

Mr. POULIOT: —and it is not because it is only fifty-two who will enjoy it that I protest. I protest against the principle of always doing more and more for other countries—not only for the United Kingdom but for other countries. Canada should be symbolized by a squeezed lemon on a white square. That would be the proper flag for Canada—a squeezed lemon on a white piece of paper. As I said, I shall be described not as a member of parliament, but as a Quebec member opposing the measure. We shall again be told that Quebec people are not loyal to the king and to the traditions of good citizenship because we use that freedom of language which is considered to be the cornerstone of constitutional democratic government. I know that that will be done because it has been done in the past, and those who inspire and support legislation of this kind with the power of strong voices are those who impress the government and rule the country.

I should like to have a truly liberal government, a democratic government, and not a government which takes its inspiration, not from Quebec or any other province of Canada, including Ontario, but from a group of fanatics who are not interested in this country and whose heart is overseas.

Mr. MUTCH: As a member of the house who comes from a part of Canada which is not Quebec I should like to assure the hon. gentleman at once that the people of the other eight provinces are too intelligent to judge Quebec by the kind of performance which he puts on in the house. I can say from knowledge that the gentlemen who are to be taken care of in this bill are Canadians domiciled in Canada and selected for duty which was exceedingly dangerous and highly confidential, and by the very nature of their work it was a question of win or die. The work which they were doing was such that no one could know where they were or who they were.

I should like to point out to the hon. member for Temiscouata, and to any other Canadian if there is one who thinks as he does, which I doubt, that it was not a Canadian war, a United States war, or a British war. It was an allied nations war in which we all combined to defend those things in which we believe and in which my hon. friend, in his more lucid moments, himself believes. There is no point in rising in our places to answer that type of argument, beyond saying that this committee should know what the committee on veterans affairs knows, namely, that these Canadians, who were directed in their service by the British government in a cause which was ours as much