

to hear from the leader of the Government, if he is in a position to give the information, as to what measures have been taken, or are likely to be taken, to look after the welfare of the wives and families of the men who are going to the front. The patriotic fund is all right as far as it goes. It is a purely voluntary fund. It may be quite sufficient, or it may be insufficient to meet all the demands that are likely to be made upon it. What we ought to have is some undertaking from the Government that if the amount of funds voluntarily subscribed by the people generally should not be sufficient, they will be supplemented by the Government of this country in such a way that no wife or child of any departed soldier will suffer. I was in touch yesterday, in common with another member of this House, with about a dozen men who came from Prince Albert to join the Princess Patricia regiment here—as fine a body of young men as I ever saw in my life. Two of those men were leaving wives, and one or two children, one of the latter being very young indeed, and they were anxious to know in what position they were leaving their families, and what they could inform their wives they could depend on after they left. It is extremely important that that matter should be cleared up, and that the soldiers themselves and their families should know exactly what they have to look to. I do not know whether the leader of the Government is at present able to give that information, but would like to have any information he may have on that subject, so that these men, when they leave will go with the knowledge that their families will be absolutely looked after and protected.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I regret that I cannot give my hon. friend as definite information upon that subject as he would desire. This is largely a matter to be yet worked out. The generosity which has been expressed in the gifts of so many, and the amounts which have been promised for this purpose will, I think, establish a sufficiently large fund to meet the requirements pointed out by my hon. friend. I understand that in the Commons yesterday the Prime Minister intimated that if it was found necessary the Government would supplement this fund sufficiently to bring it up to such an amount as would meet the required purposes. Provision has already been made by the Government, not only as to the remuneration which will be paid to the troops leaving for the seat of war,

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but the civil servants who have enlisted will receive their salaries during their absence, the same as if they were performing their ordinary duties here. This, I understand, will extend to all branches of the Civil Service. I also understand that many of the large corporations, financial, commercial and otherwise, have proffered similar assistance to those of their employees who have joined the different regiments that are leaving for the seat of war. I therefore think I can assure my hon. friend that, with the spirit which is abroad throughout the Dominion, particularly touching this phase of the war, there need be no apprehension as to the families of those who are fighting the battles of the empire being left in destitution.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I would like to add my quota of information to what has already been stated. During the South African war a fund was raised amounting to \$350,000. As you all know, there were but 3,000 men from Canada who left for South Africa.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL—5,000 altogether, I think.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—No, 2,500.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I thought there had been three contingents of 1,000 each, and there was the Strathcona Horse besides that, which would make 3,500 altogether, but I stand to be corrected; yet with that small number of men leaving, over a quarter of a million dollars was expended in support of the families that were left behind. In the present instance we will have 22,000 or 22,500 men leaving Canada for a term abroad. Besides these we will have our militia, which has been already called out to protect our public works. Besides that again, we will have to take care of the families of the reservists of Great Britain's allies—French, Belgian, Russian and Servian. The amount which will be needed to take care of a few thousand families that will be in need and that will draw from the funds gathered, will be considerable. At first some citizens of Montreal who were discussing the situation were under the impression that we would need to levy in voluntary subscriptions a million dollars; but my impression is now that we will have to double that amount throughout Canada, and it seems to me that municipalities all over will need to think of contributing to that fund. The amount which was gathered during the