

## WAR REFUGEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. ROY:

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams and other documents exchanged between the government of the province of Quebec and the dominion government, since the beginning of the present war to date, with respect to war-refugees and prisoners of war.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am informed by my colleague the Secretary of State that he does not recall any exchange of correspondence between the government of Quebec and the dominion government with respect to the war refugees and prisoners of war, since the beginning of the war. Apart from that, however, I do not think that correspondence with respect to prisoners of war should be brought down at this time. In that circumstance, the order would not pass.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Does the Prime Minister state as a matter of fact that there is not any correspondence?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I cannot say as a matter of fact, but I asked my colleague the Secretary of State if there was any, and he said that as far as he could recollect he had not any. However, he might refresh his memory. Even if there is, I do not think it would be proper to have it brought down.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): We can debate that later on. Could we not let the motion stand until it is ascertained whether there is any correspondence?

Mr. POULIOT: I ask the leader of the opposition to rise to speak, and not to speak while sitting. Let us have manners—good manners—in the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dropped.

## WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

## PROVISION FOR GRANTING TO HIS MAJESTY AID FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The house resumed from Friday, February 21, consideration in committee of a resolution to provide sums not exceeding \$1,300,000,000 for the year ending March 31, 1942, for the carrying out of measures consequent upon the existence of a state of war—Mr. Ilsley—Mr. Vien in the chair.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Under this heading I should like to bring up a matter which particularly concerns the war effort of Canada and should come under this bill. I am speaking as a member of this house, as one who lost his brother in the last war, and as one who is himself a returned soldier. On February 19, the leader of a party for whom I have always had the greatest admiration, made this statement: I quote from *Hansard*, page 838:

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): It is a rhetorical question; the Prime Minister can answer later if he wants to. The fact is that Australia is on the field of battle, and Canada is not.

Mr. Mackenzie King: I deny that absolutely. Canada is very much on the field of battle.

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): Tell that to the marines! The people of Canada know that we are not in Libya. We have a few airmen in England; we have men in training in England.

Speaking as a member and as a returned soldier, I resent that, not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of all the returned soldiers in Canada, for whom I believe I may speak. I do not know in what regiment the leader of the opposition served in the last war, but I served in the 29th battalion. I speak for every returned soldier in Canada, and for the mother, the father, and sister and brother of every soldier we have in the present theatres of war. I wonder what contribution the leader of the opposition thought he was making to this war effort when he cast such an aspersion on the Canadians who are in England and other theatres of war to-day. Do not forget that we have nurses over there undergoing bombing raids and taking all kinds of risks. On their behalf and also on behalf of all our constituents, let me say that if this is the type of leadership we are to expect from a so-called national government, the returned soldiers of the last war and the men who are in the front line in the present struggle do not want those people as leaders of any government during the continuance of this war.

Mr. HOWE: I have been asked on several occasions to make a statement on the situation affecting war production in Canada with particular reference to the aircraft industry, and with the consent of hon. members I will do so at this time.

In discussing the work of the Department of Munitions and Supply, perhaps I should first say a word about the department itself. It is a popular sport to criticize the department, and the criticism from some quarters is nothing short of abusive. In an editorial which I picked up to-day I saw the department described as the "cumbrous, amorphous and overloaded department of munitions and supply, reaching the breaking point." I think it is fair to the men who are carrying on the work of the department to say just a word about it from their point of view.

The department has been charged with all the purchasing for the army, the navy and the air force, and has to carry out all military construction work in Canada, with the exception of some work carried on by the army by day labour, and also to purchase for the government of Great Britain, the