

that schools and public buildings are being closed.

On previous occasions I have drawn attention to the fact that there has been considerable suffering throughout the western provinces; and yet the officer sent out by the Department of the Interior says that there is plenty of coal in the West, and that these Hoppe leases should not be operated. He makes that statement in face of this other fact, that last year we imported into the province of Manitoba \$3,000,000 worth of hard coal, and more than that value of soft coal, for the use of the people. There was over \$6,000,000 worth of coal imported into Manitoba, and the coal imported from the head of the Lakes west amounted to \$18,000,000 worth. All these mines that he speaks of have been in operation for years and have failed to supply the people of the West.

I wish to emphasize what I have said here before, that in the interest of the people of those three Western Provinces the Government ought to build the sixty or seventy miles of railway, in connection with the National railway system, into what is known as the Hoppe leases, and to develop those mines and put this coal on the market. We have not only high-grade bituminous coal, but also high-grade anthracite, 100,000,000 tons of it, and the people of the West are to-day suffering a fuel famine. In view of these facts I say that if the gentleman who made this report had been an employee of the great mine operators in the West, or had been speaking in their behalf, to prevent competition, he could not have made a better report for the purpose than he has laid before the Government. I therefore ask that the Government investigate this matter further, and if the coal is needed, as I am sure it is, that these coal mines be opened up at an early date in order that the people of the West may obtain an abundance of cheap fuel.

Hon. L. G. POWER: Honourable gentlemen, as I understand, this Supply Bill is now at its second reading. I am not in the habit of discussing Supply Bills at this stage of the session, but there are a few observations which I feel it is my duty to make at the present time.

I am not going to deal with the various minor items in the Bill, but I cannot allow the vote of \$20,000,000 for soldiers' civil re-establishment and the other vote of \$40,000,000 to carry out the recommendations of the committee of the other House,

to pass without some observations. That \$60,000,000, honourable gentlemen, is an immense sum. If any government previous to 1914 had undertaken to bring down a proposal to spend \$60,000,000, it would have caused a very great excitement and would have led to long discussion. There is this thing to be borne in mind, that Canada has already spent an enormous sum on behalf of the soldiers who represented the country overseas. The Canadian soldiers made a record overseas of which the country has every reason to be proud, but, unfortunately, a number of the men who did go over and, I suppose, distinguished themselves, have been since their return to this country apparently doing their utmost to take away the gloss and the glory of their achievements on the battlefield. If we had thought, when our men were distinguishing themselves at Vimy Ridge or Paschendœle or any of those other fights in which the Canadians came so conspicuously to the front, that these men who went over the top in such a courageous way would on their return to this country be asking for millions and millions of dollars to compensate them, we should not have had the same feeling towards our representatives that we did have. As I say, honourable gentlemen, I regret very much that these men, or some of them, are apparently doing their best to throw discredit on the force as a whole.

In the United States, instead of a gratuity of six months' pay, about \$600, each of the returned soldiers gets only \$65, and we have not heard of any outcry over there, nor of any country-wide agitation in favour of the payment of enormous sums; and the United States is a much wealthier country and much better able to contribute largely towards the supposed wellbeing of the returned soldier than Canada is. I think that Canada undoubtedly has dealt more liberally with her soldiers than has any other country in the world. The record shows that.

Now, where is this thing going to stop? We have already, as I say, dealt more liberally with our soldiers than any other country in the world, and why should we keep on spending—why should we spend \$60,000,000 still further to help them? I think that as a rule, as was stated by the honourable gentleman from Assiniboia (Hon. Mr. Turriff) to-day, there is employment for all the men who are willing to work, and it does seem to me that these returned soldiers should return to work instead of turning to the Treasury and insist-