

had not been able to save enough to provide for his funeral expenses. A gentleman not connected with the Canadian Legion told me that he has a fund called the Last Post fund, but had not enough money to bury the returned soldier and had to send somebody out on the streets to beg for it. It is a disgrace to Canada that we cannot bury our returned soldiers in cases where at the time of their death they had not any money which could be used to cover funeral expenses. I suggest to the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment that he increase this vote, so that when a returned soldier in indigent circumstances dies we will have enough money to bury him. We are voting \$250,000 for Ottawa and still we have not enough money to bury our returned soldiers. All the soldiers ask is that the government furnish a little stone slab so that the soldier can be buried decently with the rest of the veterans, and I propose that the minister increase this vote by \$50,000 in order to provide for cases such as the one I have referred to.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): We are either going to have order or the Speaker will call it six o'clock—one or the other. In regard to this particular matter the government cannot plead that it has not been advised of the situation. A year ago I personally spoke to the Prime Minister about it and wrote him a letter pleading with him to increase the vote in this regard. The Prime Minister expressed sympathy, but had some difficulty in meeting my request. The estimate this year is the same as last year, and it is not enough to meet the requirements of the province from which I come. I do not know what the position is in other provinces, but I have had letters from the honorary president of the Last Post fund of my province protesting pitifully in regard to the situation there. Man after man is buried in the potter's field on account of the lack of a decent sense of responsibility on the part of the government in regard to this particular matter. Before the item passes I ask that the Prime Minister give us his views on the situation.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have not the letter my hon. friend refers to, but I am entirely in sympathy with any provision to carry out in an adequate way what is proposed in this vote, and if the amount is not sufficient for the purpose I would ask my colleague to place an amount in a subsequent estimate.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

[Mr. Adshead.]

Mr. KING (Kootenay): The Last Post fund is subscribed to by those interested in the burial of soldiers who died in such circumstances that no provision had been made for their burial by themselves or by their friends. The government has supported that fund by giving a grant. There is a general secretary in Montreal who administers the fund. An amount of \$10,000 has been voted each year, and the burials have been made under that organization. It is true I had reports made this year asking for a further increase of ten, twelve or fifteen thousand dollars. The question I had to consider was whether we wished to continue an organization outside the department and grant to them a certain sum each year. If we are to increase that sum, then the government probably had better assume the whole cost and expenditure. That is a matter I have to consider, and of course that would involve a large expenditure. Under the rules the government had to bury all soldiers on their staff or under treatment, and pensioners who were under treatment. We have not gone beyond that, except in the grant to the Last Post fund which provides for a class who are indigent and have not the means to provide for burial.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Where there are soldiers of that description, will the minister guarantee that they should be buried without charge?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Yes, we do guarantee.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): No.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): What is the question?

Mr. ADSHEAD: In the case of the returned soldier who dies and there is not enough money in the Last Post fund to bury him, will the government undertake to supply the funds to bury him?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): It would be impossible. We have not the money in the vote.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I may say on behalf of the government that if any cases such as my hon. friend refers to are brought to the attention of the government we will certainly see to it that an appropriate burial is arranged.

Mr. GARDINER: We appreciate what the Prime Minister has said, but that is not enough. We want in the estimates a certain sum of money which may be utilized for that