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the Prime Minister, commands the admiration of all. His reference was in the following words:

... for what Britain is and what she has given the world, the free institutions she has developed, the tolerance and ability to reconcile opposing points of view which mark her political life, the insistence upon individual liberty, the devotion to public duty and the readiness to do public service without regimentation or reward.

I was born and brought up in the atmosphere of a happy and united home. My French father and English mother taught us to be proud of the two races which share the land of Canada, and loyal to our country, our only country, Canada. Therefore, I can say, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier said in Paris in 1897:

Our dual fidelity to distinct ideas and aspirations is a matter of pride with us. We are loyal to the great nation which gave us birth and also to that other great nation which gave us freedom.

If we are to achieve complete national unity, let us develop a truly Canadian brand of patriotism. Let us be Canadians after the manner of the Prime Minister. Let us be Canadians like the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), who a few weeks ago received from his fellow citizens of Quebec such a striking mark of admiration and affection. Let me close with the words of Reverend Father George Simard, who said:

Since provincialism and nationalism are simply modalities essentially inherent in the substance of true patriotism, they cannot take precedence over the citizens' duty to their common country. Should ever the parts prevail over the integrity of the whole to which they are subordinate, a new country would arise from the ruins of the fallen one. Let us not forget that fact if we do not want Canada to cease being our Canada.

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Chairman, here is a file about two or three inches thick which contains correspondence in connection with a difficulty that has arisen in the southern part of my constituency. Will the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) be kind enough to have a summary made by the department and get in touch with the President of the United States in order that this difficulty which has been rather annoying to my electors may be settled. When hon. members see what a voluminous file this is, they will agree that it is not reasonable to expect a member of parliament to carry on so much correspondence when the matter could have been settled very easily through the cooperation of the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian legation at Washington. Hon. members have other things to do than writing letters, and we

[Mr. Tremblay.]

should have the assistance of the officials in the various departments. The Prime Minister is an able diplomat, and a word from him to Mr. Roosevelt would do more than the most lengthy correspondence.

Now that hon. members have seen this file they will perhaps understand why at times the member for Témiscouata complains about the way in which he is dealt with by the officials in the various departments. The Prime Minister knows very well that I do not blame him. We all realize that he has much to do, but at times we must turn to him to have a wrong redressed. I have the fullest confidence in him. In a matter like this, one must have faith, and this reminds me of a little story I heard not long ago. It was midsummer in one of the southern states and the people were in great need of rain. A preacher told his congregation to meet in the church to pray for rain. The congregation met, sang a spiritual, and the minister entered his pulpit. He looked at the congregation and he told them he would not preach. When they asked him why, he told them they had not sufficient faith. He said, "Not one of you has brought an umbrella; if you had more faith, each one would have brought an umbrella for the rain." I did not carry an umbrella to-day, but I have great faith in the Prime Minister's ability to settle this case to the satisfaction of all concerned.

This is simply a question of property rights. One of my electors owns land on both sides of the border. He has been in the habit of sending his cattle and horses on that land to pasture. Then United States customs officers seized his cattle and horses because of supposed smuggling. Smuggling entails wilful intention, and I cannot see how horses or cattle in pasture could have such wilful intention. This man owned the land and he had unquestioned rights on it. The only smuggling that occurred was in connection with the Canadian grass eaten by the horses and cattle. The hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) says that is perhaps more a matter of internal affairs than external affairs. The whole controversy was organized by a republican candidate for congress who hoped to make a little agitation at the expense of the French-speaking people in the northern part of the state of Maine.

Hon. members will realize how ridiculous is this whole matter. This honest farmer was formerly mayor of the municipality. A letter was sent to the present mayor of Estcourt by the Department of External Affairs. This was a sort of appeasement letter. Mr. Norman Robertson seemed to think that this matter might interfere with the signing of the trade

treaty. He told this gentleman that everyone understood the details of the difficulty, but that the matter should be allowed to stand for a short time, when everything would be settled. My elector should be helped. I am sure the Prime Minister will be ready to give him his valuable assistance. I can see by his expression that he has been convinced of the rights of my constituent, Mr. Richard, who along with other people in my constituency, has had this trouble.

Item agreed to.

At six o'clock the Speaker resumed the chair, and the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 41, for the relief of Edythe Marjorie Burke Atkinson.—Mr. Heaps.

Bill No. 42, for the relief of Marie Louise Rosetti Di Rosa.—Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City).

Bill No. 43, for the relief of Stefano Guilio Luciano Roncari.—Mr. Walsh.

Bill No. 45, for the relief of Gertrude Saul Baker.—Mr. Walsh.

Bill No. 46, for the relief of Mary Frances Todd Lister Cardwell.—Mr. Heaps.

Bill No. 47, for the relief of Herbert John Butler.—Mr. Walsh.

Bill No. 48, for the relief of Anna Lasnier Blain.—Mr. Tomlinson.

Bill No. 49, for the relief of Annie March Breakey Coburn.—Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City).

Bill No. 50, for the relief of Mabel Gertrude Marks Lamoureux.—Mr. Factor.

Bill No. 51, for the relief of Earl Keith Drennan.—Mr. Bercovitch.

Bill No. 52, for the relief of Per Ernst Martinsson.—Mr. Thompson.

Bill No. 57, respecting The United Church of Canada.—Mr. Motherwell.

Bill No. 58, to incorporate The Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.—Mr. Cameron.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 55, to change the name of Ancient Foresters' Mutual Life Insurance Company to Toronto Mutual Life Insurance Company.—Mr. Cleaver.

Bill No. 68, for the relief of Jean Winifred Hunter Urquhart.—Mr. Walsh.

Bill No. 69, for the relief of Sarah Theresa Norman.—Mr. Ahearn.

Bill No. 70, for the relief of Helen Kathleen Yuill.—Mr. Hyndman.

Bill No. 71, for the relief of Zdenka Pauline Ottilie Josefine von Ehrenfeld-Pop Drummond, otherwise known as Yvonne Drummond.—Mr. Hill.

MILITIA ACT AMENDMENT

SANCTION BY PARLIAMENT OF PLACING MILITIA ON ACTIVE SERVICE BEYOND CANADA

Mr. C. G. MacNEIL (Vancouver North) moved the second reading of Bill No. 18, to amend the Militia Act.

He said: We have been assured over and over again by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) that parliament will decide on all those matters that relate to participation in war. An examination of the existing provisions of the Militia Act reveals that under certain circumstances parliament may not decide anything beyond the amounts to be voted in fulfilment of commitments previously made by the executive.

The amendments to the Militia Act which I propose are designed to give reality to assurances made by the Prime Minister that parliament and parliament only will actually make those decisions that lead to participation in war abroad or that would impose compulsory military service on the people of Canada. If a comparison is made between the text of my amendments and the words uttered by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) last week, it will be found that I have not gone one step beyond the solemn assurances given this house.

In any hour of crisis we shall not refer to the pages of *Hansard* to discover what was the will of parliament; we shall refer to our statutes; and it is the responsibility of parliament, in my opinion, to place upon the statute books as clear a definition as possible of the intention of parliament. Resounding phrases do not provide or compensate for any defective or obsolete law. In the face of a definite threat of war there is on the statute books no act that should receive more rigorous scrutiny than the Militia Act. It is under that act that orders may be issued demanding that Canadians lay down their lives in defence of their country. We have revised almost annually other acts of much less consequence, in order to keep abreast of the changing times. The Militia Act now in force is of the 1904 model. Since 1904, changes of profound significance have taken place within

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