

I am receiving every day messages protesting against the privileges these people enjoy: though other citizens are being called upon to render military service, the Hutterites are not called upon to do anything. That is the feeling in Alberta, where many Mennonites and Hutterites have settled. I think the Government should state what assurances were given these people on their entry into this country, so that their status will be known to those Canadians who, as I say, are very much dissatisfied with what to them is discriminatory treatment in favour of these people with respect to military service.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Mennonites first settled in Manitoba in 1874 under an arrangement which was effected by Mr. Hespeler, at that time the German Consul in Winnipeg. Though the Mennonites live in a sort of community village, they are individualists and own their own farms. They were granted exemption from military service in 1917, when the Conscription Act was passed. Whether the Mennonites who have come out here since the Russian revolution share that exemption is another question.

The Hutterites entered Canada from Dakota after the United States joined the Allies in the Great War, and they came here on the distinct understanding that they would not be subject to military service. They are good farmers and mind their own business. They speak the language of instruction of the province in which they live. In Manitoba English is the language of instruction. I am sure that my colleagues from Manitoba, the honourable senator from Provencher (Hon. Mr. Molloy), the honourable senator from St. Jean Baptiste (Hon. A. L. Beaubien), and the honourable senator from Manitou (Hon. Mr. Sharpe), will bear me out when I say that we have no better workers and citizens than our Mennonite settlers. I think there is less crime among them than among even our own French-speaking or English-speaking citizens. I would impress on the Government that it should go very slow in drafting our Mennonite and Hutterite settlers.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Could the honourable gentleman inform us regarding a large group of Mennonites who years ago left Canada for one of the South American republics? I hope they returned.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: No. The trouble was over language of instruction in their schools. In 1915 the then Minister of Education in Manitoba insisted that English, and English alone, be taught in the schools, with the result that a certain percentage of the church Mennonites migrated to South America, and

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are still there. They are bitterly disappointed and would like to return to Canada. A few have come back, but the great majority still remain there because our Immigration Department—I think quite properly—will not let them re-enter the Dominion unless they bring back sufficient money and settlers' effects to enable them to carry on. I may say that the Mennonites were willing that English should be taught in their schools, but they wanted part of the day devoted to instruction in German, the language employed in their homes. The Mennonites are followers of Menno and the Hutterites are followers of Hutter, both contemporaries of Luther.

### NATIONAL WAR SERVICES— REGISTRATION AND MOBILIZATION

#### INQUIRY AND DISCUSSION

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would ask the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) whether the rules and regulations with respect to mobilization have yet been tabled.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: I was under the impression that they had been set out in a speech which the Minister of National Defence delivered in the other House a few days ago. I will make inquiries.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I read the statement to which the honourable gentleman refers, but from that I cannot tell what the set-up is. I was hoping the Government would give us this information before Parliament prorogues.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: We have been promised it.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I should like to have it if possible.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have a vague recollection of seeing in the Press that such a statement would be presented to the House of Commons. I will find out and inform my honourable friend.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: In this connection I may say that outside of the Supply Bill there are but two measures which can reach us before the end of the session. One concerns the wheat situation in the Western Provinces. In respect to this I might draw the attention of my honourable friends to the statement of Hon. Mr. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, which appears in the House of Commons Debates of July 24 last.