

who later joined the permanent army, up to the present time would not be permitted to count his service in the air force reserve toward his pension in the army. This amendment makes it possible for service in any of the reserve forces to be counted toward pension when a man joins any of the permanent forces.

Mr. SKEY: Why does the minister wish to exclude R.M.C. and Royal Roads? Young men attending these institutions are cadets; the midshipmen go to sea.

Mr. LAPOINTE: A midshipman is an officer, not a cadet.

Mr. CLAXTON: I might answer the two hon. gentlemen who have just spoken by saying this matter was discussed very thoroughly yesterday, when what I thought were cogent reasons were given as to why attendance at R.M.C. and Royal Roads should be considered as different from service in the non-permanent active militia. Briefly, the reason was that on entry into the Royal Military College and the Royal Roads Naval College a cadet does not take an oath of attestation; he does not form part of a corps as it is defined in the Militia Act; he is not liable to service; he is not in fact a soldier or a sailor. As I pointed out, this matter is not new; it has been like this since there has been a military pension act. The question has been considered and discussed frequently, and the position I have just stated has been taken consistently.

I would point out another position which is not at all dissimilar. Take the case of a civil servant who, after a period of service, becomes entitled to a pension because of his service. There never has been any suggestion that such civil servant should count for pension purposes the time he spent at the university or at a law school or a school of mines qualifying himself to become a civil servant.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): And for which he himself paid.

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes, which he himself paid for. I do not think it has ever been suggested that the civil servant should count, as time for pension purposes in the civil service, the time he spent preparing himself to qualify for the position. I submit the positions are substantially analogous. The whole Militia Pension Act is based upon the notion of service in one or other branch of the armed forces of Canada; and the active force and reserve force are two of those branches.

Mr. CHURCH: There is considerable criticism of this economy measure, as the public and those in the reserves find out the real

objects and functions of this legislation. It come from a city second to none in what it has done in connection with the air force and non-permanent militia, but I can say that at the present time there is great difficulty in getting recruits for the auxiliary air force, and non-permanent militia, and there is a great deal of dissatisfaction among our younger people. They believe that by this amendment the government is injuring recruiting. In the two wars there was great interest shown in the air force. Of course at the time of the first great war it was the Royal Air Force; after that we had our own air force. Many young men who had been in the militia joined the air force during the second war. Some of them had cadet training, which for those under fourteen is now being wiped out in the public schools. When they got to be sixteen or seventeen years of age they began to hang around these amateur air clubs, and later graduated to the air force.

I believe this provision of one-quarter allowance is most unfair; it should be put back to one-half for the non-permanent active militia. The benefits which were set out last session, according to the statement by the minister, now are being reduced from one-half to one-quarter, and he considers that a fair provision. It is hard enough to get recruits for either the auxiliary air squadrons or the non-permanent militia; it is getting harder all the time. Only the other day a commanding officer told me they are even having a hard time getting recruits for the militia from the schools, on which they used to rely for many of their men. I have seen some parades, and many of those taking part did not seem to be any older than fourteen, fifteen or sixteen. For us to pass an amendment to this pension act so soon after the ending of the war I think is a retrograde step. It is not only going to hurt recruiting for the air force, but also for the militia and the naval reserve as well. It is inequitable; it is unfair; it is not in the interests of recruiting. Neither is it in the interest of economy, because later on we may have to pay for doing business in such a haphazard way.

Mr. LENNARD: Last evening I asked the minister the names of those who composed the interdepartmental committee, or rather those who set up these regulations. Could he give us the names of those who belonged to the interdepartmental committee, who drew up these regulations on which we are passing now?

Mr. CLAXTON: There are no regulations. What I said was that this matter had been looked into by an interdepartmental commit-