

Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Hughes, district medical officer, military district No. 12, had four years post-graduate work in eye, ear, nose and throat in the United States. He has carried on an extensive practice in his specialty at Saint John, New Brunswick, for the past twenty years.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Reid, the district medical officer for military district No. 13, has carried on a large general and surgical practice in Calgary, Alberta, for the past nineteen years.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. K. Wilson, V.D., camp medical officer, Petawawa, has had two years post-graduate work in ear, nose and throat work in the United States. He has specialized in nose and throat work in the city of Toronto for the past twenty years and is a member of the ear, nose and throat staff of the Western hospital, Toronto.

I would say once more that it is men like that and the men who are serving all over Canada and overseas whom I object to being referred to as the "dregs" of the medical profession in Canada. I say to the hon. member and to the committee that there were errors in connection with medical examinations as well as everything else, particularly in the early days, and I brought that to the attention of the committee very frankly on previous occasions and told the committee of the steps taken to remedy the situation, of the instructions which went out and of the endeavours we were making to teach civilian doctors the job of making examinations from the military standpoint. It has not been easy. I have no doubt there have been slips. But I do say as regards the medical organization for the whole army I am exceedingly gratified that we have been able to get the services of the type of men we have. I say this further, that no body or service in Canada, bar none, has any more representative, any more skilful, any more proficient, any more devoted band of medical men than has the army, whose medical officers have come in from the profession to help us out in this time of need. I hope with that assurance and with that statement the hon. member will feel that the situation has been adequately taken care of in connection with these old cases in 1940 which he has reviewed. It is, of course, useful to have them brought to our attention so that we will not get complacent.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I can understand these cases getting into the army, but I cannot understand why in the world they were allowed to stay in the army after they appealed for an examination.

Mr. RALSTON: I have not seen these files and I cannot deal with these cases. My hon.

friend says he is going to pass them over to me, and I will deal with them when the time comes. It must be remembered that we have 450,000 men in the army. I do not know how many cases my hon. friend has; he may have fifty.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Mr. Chairman, what are we discussing? We are supposed to be discussing item 3, for travel, transportation and freight. But now we have got on to medical services again. That should be discussed under item 5, which reads: "Personnel supplies and services; food, medical and dental stores, clothing and personal equipment."

Mr. RALSTON: The reason that came up was that when the hon. member for Témiscouata last night was discussing medical services on the item for pay and allowances, where it can be discussed, as a matter of fact, though not as properly as under item 5, I interrupted him and told him that if he would allow me to make a statement with regard to the case brought up by the member for New Westminster he could go on with his statement to-day. My hon. friend the member for Weyburn was not in perhaps at the time.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I was in.

Mr. RALSTON: Perhaps he did not agree to it.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I can understand the hon. member for Témiscouata wishing to discuss the medical services, but I do not see how he cannot discuss them under item 5. If there was no other item on which to discuss them I could understand his discussing them now. But we are supposed now to be discussing travel, transportation and freight.

Mr. RALSTON: I have my transportation and freight men here.

The CHAIRMAN: I myself was in error. I well remember now the minister asking the hon. member for Témiscouata to allow him to make a statement. A little later the leader of the opposition asked the minister if he would answer some questions after item 2 had been carried. I understood that practically unanimous consent was given by the committee at the time.

Mr. GILLIS: Still on the point of order, Mr. Chairman, if this afternoon is going to be taken up entirely with a debate between the hon. member for Témiscouata and the minister, the rest of us might as well go up to our rooms and do some work. If the hon. member for Témiscouata is to go back to deal with cases in 1940 and iron them out with