

*War Appropriation—Army*

but I would think that quite possibly there is a fatigue to be done or something of that kind, and since this chap is able-bodied and it was his day for the fatigue, that is why he scrubbed the floors. Floors have to be scrubbed by somebody.

Mr. MacNICOL: He likely went through that three years ago.

Mr. RALSTON: Yes, I know. If he had stuck with the air force he would not have to go through it again. Would my hon. friend give me the name?

Mr. MacNICOL: Yes. I shall first ask permission from his people, and if I get it I shall give the minister the name.

Mr. POULIOT: These are cases of fatigue duty or K.P. duty. That is the title of those who do the work of scrubbing floors and washing dishes. That is all right, but it is unfortunate that in many places many of the boys who have completed their classical courses have to do that work all the time because they are supposed not to know English.

Before the minister replies to the hon. member for Davenport, I should like to ask him several questions about the pulhems system. In the first place I am sure hon. members know that "P" is for physical ability, "U" for upper limbs, arms, "L" for lower limbs, "H" for hearing, "E" for eyesight, "M" for mentality and "S" for stability. The matter of emotional stability was discussed at great length last year. Each one of those seven divisions is subdivided into classifications numbered from 1 to 5, except division "M", or the mentality test, which does not include classification 3, and division "S" which does not have classification 2. That information was given to me some time ago and I wonder if it is up to date.

I should like to ask the minister a question in this connection. If he cannot answer me to-day I shall be satisfied to receive the answer to-morrow. My first question is, what is each one of those classifications and each one of the seven divisions; second, why does not division "M" include classification 3; third, why does not division "S" include classification 2? My fourth question is, what is the third classification under "M" and the second classification under "S", if any? It seems there is only one classification under "S" for stability. There should be only one classification for mentality, because one is either mentally fit or mentally unfit; one is normal or not. There are no degrees of abnormality or mental unfitness; surely one cannot be partly mentally unfit. I hear that in the holy city of Toronto many boys were found mentally unfit because of the

[Mr. Ralston.]

answers they gave to certain questions. I was told that they were shown a picture of an automobile with flat tires, and were told to say quickly what was wrong with the car. Instead of "flat tires" one boy said "no gas", and he was declared mentally unfit. Another question was, "What is a pudding made of?" When a boy answered, "Salt and pepper" he was declared mentally unfit. It is all very childish; they are shown pictures and asked questions. The results do not reflect upon the intelligence of the boys who have been found mentally unfit in Toronto, though the number who have failed in these tests is quite astonishing.

As my fifth question I will ask the minister to tell the committee, first, the number of officers and, second, the number of non-commissioned officers and men who have been found mentally unfit under the pulhems test, in each military district, and I would ask also for a list of the questions that are asked in order to ascertain the mental fitness of these men.

I have another series of questions. Under the pulhems system recruits are supposed to be examined by six specialists. First, there is a specialist in internal medicine; second, a specialist in the chest; third, a surgeon; fourth, a psychiatrist; fifth, a specialist in the eyes, ears, nose and throat, and, sixth, an army examiner. In each division recruits are supposed to be classified by a specialist, but the number of specialists does not equal the seven letters of the word "pulhems"; there are seven letters and six specialists. I should like to know what specialists are supposed to pass judgment in each of the seven divisions. My next questions are as follows: first, who is the specialist, already mentioned, who classifies a recruit in each division, "P," "U," "L," "H," "E," "M," "S"; second, how many pulhems boards are there in the country, and where are they located; third, who are the specialists on each board; fourth, what are the qualifications of each specialist? I will ask the minister also to be kind enough to summarize for the committee all orders, instructions and regulations concerning the "M" test.

Then we come to the "S," which means stability of the mind or of the body. Stability must be defined, since there is a test for it. We have stability of the mind and we have stability of the body, which sometimes is acrobatics. We need more information about mental stability. Here we have a fellow who is all right; all the doctors except the psychiatrist find him in good condition. We do not know much about pulhems; it is something that has been imported into this country, but everyone should know what it is. Last year