

one. I realize that it is impossible to take any one of the various matters which we have discussed and give the decision of the committee on it, while leaving the others over. Still, I would like to express my own opinion, at any rate, that—and I am particularly interested in the representations made with respect to the returned men in the service—if there is any way at all in which we can intimate to them the excellent reception their case has received, I think perhaps it would be nice to do that, if we cannot do it in any other way.

Mr. HEAPS: I have a great deal of sympathy with the representations of the returned men; but I am afraid that the moment we start taking one particular class of representations and considering that, it would probably work a hardship on the others who have also made representations. A point which I think we should bear in mind, when we are considering the representations made, is that anything that might be done, even at a subsequent time, will not in any way affect the status later on; that is, delay at the moment will not affect the position of the returned men one iota—if the report goes in next year or this year—because we are dealing with something that is retroactive in its character. But I am afraid, in order to get the thing on a sound basis, we should consider all the representations made together, and bring in a complete report. I am sure that the representations made by the returned soldiers will in no way suffer by the fact that the report is delayed till such time as the committee is able to report finally.

Mr. MUTCH: I think there are perhaps just two of us on the committee, if my information is correct, who happen to be returned men; and I do wish more than anything else to express my personal gratification at the good hearing these men got. I was merely voicing that sentiment and nothing else.

Mr. POTTIER: I wrote a letter sometime ago with regard to the men in the Department of Fisheries as well as the Department of Marine, who are on the Atlantic coast employed on vessels, and who are now in the category of prevailing rates employees. I will support the representations made—not as a member of this committee, but on behalf of the men themselves and as a member of parliament—by Mr. Neill and Mr. Reid, with regard to men in the marine service and fisheries department employed on boats on the Atlantic coast. They referred particularly to the Pacific coast. Briefly, the situation is this: I know of a number of men who have been aboard these boats for twenty-five or thirty years, year in and year out, getting a month's holidays or two week's holidays, depending upon the type of service they give. But they are paid at a salary, as far as I know, that has been paid to them for ten, fifteen or twenty years. They are sometimes promoted from second engineer to first engineer, and their salaries are affected in that way, but they have a steady salary. I think it is unfortunate that these men are penalized because their mode of employment is labelled in the wrong way—whether it is the Department of Marine or Fisheries or whether it is on account of the Treasury Board, I do not know. But certainly their type of payment is not according to the facts, and I urge that their case be given consideration. I have a brief from them, but they had confused the Civil Service Act with the Superannuation Act. I think perhaps the better method of presenting their case is for me to do it orally in the way I have, and ask you to give it the best consideration you can.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure that the men represented by Mr. Pottier will not suffer from any lack of presentation of their views, because Mr. Pottier has dealt with them previously, and will no doubt be in a position to deal with them again. As far as the matter brought up by Mr. Mutch is concerned, I may say that I am interested in the case of the returned soldiers just the same way as he is; but I agree with Mr. Heaps that it would be impossible to try to pick and choose one or two of the particular classes dealt with by the committee at this time, and to try to have any legislation or administrative changes