

This shows that in 1936 the present government realized that Canada had some responsibility for the care and maintenance of these men while they were unemployed. That bill was referred to a special committee of the house known as the committee on pensions and returned soldiers' problems. The bill was approved by the committee and returned to the house with a recommendation in which again responsibility was acknowledged. That recommendation from the committee was as follows:

As representations were made that the existing facilities for the care and maintenance of unemployed veterans were inadequate in some localities your committee would further recommend that the commission, while conducting this survey into the extent of unemployment, should investigate the facilities available throughout Canada for the care and maintenance of veterans and should make such suggestions and recommendations as may be deemed advisable.

The Veterans' Assistance Commission Act became law. The Rattray commission was appointed on July 7, 1936, and shortly afterwards fifteen honorary local committees were set up across Canada—with a paid secretariat and provision made for officers to help carry out the provisions of the Veterans' Assistance Commission Act. The Rattray commission deserves a great deal of credit. With the aid of these local committees, which also have done wonderful work, and for the setting up of which I give the government and the minister all due credit—

Mr. POWER: The commission did that work; I did not do it.

Mr. GREEN: The minister helped to set up the commission. Work was found for many of the unemployed veterans in several ways. For example, the honorary committees went to employers and were able to place many of the unemployed veterans. There is a very cheering word in the report with regard to the attitude of the veterans to work, and the attitude of the prospective employers to the veterans; at page 55 of the veterans' assistance commission report we find this:

Before recommending temporary allowances be granted to single and married unemployed veterans who saw service in a theatre of actual war, this commission established these facts:

1. Veterans are anxious to work;
2. Employers are willing to employ them.

I believe employers across Canada have never been more favourably disposed towards veterans than they are at the present time, on account of the efforts of the Rattray commission and of the honorary local committees.

[Mr. Green.]

In addition, the commission set up different projects which were referred to to-night during the course of the discussion, such as the corps of commissionaires, Workshops Limited, and other projects; and probational training was provided to fit men for work which they could not have done without the extra training.

But in addition to finding jobs for veterans the commission made a thorough investigation of the problem of the unemployed veteran. Early last year interim reports were brought in, and finally in December a final report was presented. Several significant findings were made by the commission. For example, it found that it could do nothing for unemployable veterans, those who were disabled. There was no sense in getting jobs for men who were not fit to do them. Several of us had pointed out to the minister and the government during the 1936 session and again last session that the unemployable men could not be helped by the commission, and that they should be provided for by an extension of the War Veterans' Allowance Act. The Rattray commission found the same thing, and this year the government has extended the act to provide for those men. Then, the commission found that many of the employable men could not be placed either through projects, through direct contact with employers, or by giving probational training. Thousands of these men could not expect to get jobs. To-night the minister frankly admits that the projects the government is financing during the coming year will take care of only a few more of the unemployed veterans, and that there is no legislation being proposed or no provision being made by the government to find jobs for these men.

The commission reported as its main recommendation the following, which will be found at page 63 of the report:

After giving the matter considerable thought and bearing in mind the representation made by organizations throughout the country, by honorary local committees, and information obtained from various sources, the commission has come to the conclusion that it can do no less than recommend that the dominion government accept responsibility for all indigent unemployed veterans who were domiciled in Canada at date of enlistment and who saw service in a theatre of actual war.

But it goes on to state the proviso that the men must be willing to work. That finding is confirmed by the reports of the different honorary local committees which actually had to face the situation. They were composed of men who knew the facts and the Rattray commission had travelled from one end of