

her own chores, and possibly bedridden, should also get \$35 if she was wholly dependent on her son's support.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): She would be entitled to a pension of \$60 if he was her sole support.

Mr. NEILL: Yes, if he were killed, but I am talking about the dependent's allowance. I am not particular which department answers my question so long as the mother is granted more than \$20 when her son is her sole support. The married woman gets \$35, and it is no use telling me that she may have children to support because she gets paid extra for that, and if she is a young and able woman she can go out and do work, and she is able to do her own chores. But the aged woman, who is perhaps unable to do her own chores and may need medical attention, gets only \$20.

Mr. LOCKHART: I associate myself with what has been said on this point by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), and I believe that little latitude should be allowed under this resolution.

I rose particularly to ask the minister for further information with respect to the man who, having been accepted for service overseas, went to England, developed certain disabilities and was returned to Canada and discharged. His wife has been receiving his assigned pay and the allowance. The soldier is discharged as physically unfit and is unable to take his place in industry. His physical condition prevents him from following his former occupation. No committee seems to be able to deal with that kind of case. I could cite one or two cases of this kind in my own district where the family has had to go on relief. Will provision be made under this resolution or in amendments to the act to take care of men who have served for a considerable time in England and have then been returned to Canada and discharged and who are not eligible for pension? Some of them received one month's pay and then had to go on relief.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): There will be no provision here.

Mr. LOCKHART: No provision at all?

Mr. ROSS (Souris): What is the percentage of the 20,000 discharged soldiers who were actually medically unfit when accepted for service? It seems to me the percentage is very high.

Mr. RALSTON: What is my hon. friend asking?

Mr. ROSS (Souris): The percentage of men now discharged who were not medically fit when accepted.

Mr. RALSTON: I have not the figures here. I can give the number who were discharged as medically unfit after a certain time.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Would not the minister have a record showing whether they were medically fit at the time they were accepted into the army? I mean, unfit from the standpoint of present standards.

Mr. RALSTON: The point is that they were accepted as medically fit at the time but were afterwards found to be unfit.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): How many of those are there?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not the figures here but I can make an estimate. I believe it would be about nine or ten thousand, about half. I can get the figures.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Does not that seem a large percentage?

Mr. RALSTON: It did to me, and I have a report from the director general of medical services.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It suggests that the initial medical examination was, I will not say negligent, but inadequate.

Mr. RALSTON: I received a report and there were a number of reasons why the initial medical examination did not detect certain disabilities. I myself did consider the percentage a rather large one. There may have been some causes for it. The reasons are given in the director general's memorandum and I shall be glad to refer to it when the war appropriation bill is before the committee.

Mr. POWER: I know something about this. I believe it would have been a crime if we had had the same number of invalids enlisted in the Canadian expeditionary force as there were in the last war, and I think the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Bruce) will agree with me. The matter was looked into. People with one eye and one leg often came back and received pensions at the expense of the country. Representations were made to the military medical boards and they investigated them. The medical boards in this war are one hundred per cent better than they were in the last. There were very many men who came in for a week or two and were discharged. They should not have been let in; they were waiting to be X-rayed.