

and South America is 14,163. I am sorry; that is not correct, either; this is not the information my hon. friend wants. This is the number who have enlisted in the army who were born in North and South America, not in Canada.

The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) asked regarding the matter of remedial treatment and the announcement made not long ago with respect to a change in that procedure. This proposal has been in force only for about a month or a month and a half; I think the announcement was made in March. As first announced, that policy was not general; it dealt particularly with cases of hernia. In February we announced that hernia in general would not be regarded as a ground for rejection if the recruit was otherwise in good condition. It was provided that the recruit might be accepted and might be categorized provisionally A(R)—that is, A-remedial—or B(R), which is B-remedial, with a view to an operation and probable grading up to A or B. New regulations are just being issued whereby varicose veins and some other similar ailments will be included in these regulations, and I anticipate that conditions such as non-toxic goitres and similar disabilities will be included. Whether those remedial disabilities will preclude enlistment will be decided upon in each case by the consultants at the reception centres which are now being organized. In other words, instead of sending men to Pensions and National Health before enlistment to have their disabilities remedied by comparatively minor operations, they will be enlisted and put in this category, and of course it will depend upon the result of the operation whether or not they will remain in the army. The object is to deal with cases in which there is every likelihood that remedial treatment will be effective.

Mr. GREEN: Have many men taken advantage of that?

Mr. RALSTON: There is no experience in that connection at all as yet; sufficient time has not elapsed to give us any experience.

Mr. GREEN: Have any men taken advantage of that provision?

Mr. RALSTON: I cannot tell my hon. friend, but I should think there would be quite a number.

Mr. GREEN: Is there a very wide field there? Is it expected many men can be recruited under that provision?

Mr. RALSTON: Well, I would think so; quite a number have varicose veins, goitre and hernia.

Then the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas) asked with regard to the cost of telephones and telegrams, and I have a breakdown here. I cannot give it by districts, but this is the total cost for each item of expenditure, I think for the fiscal year: telephones, \$742,903; telegrams and cables, \$278,987; teletype, \$25,841; making a grand total of \$1,047,731.

The hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) asked last night with regard to the practice concerning gasoline and the procedure which the drivers follow in getting gasoline on the road. The procedure is that normally drivers obtain gasoline from the supply pumps at the army station. There is not a purchase from a commercial station except in case of what they call a local emergency, which means that a man has travelled farther than he has expected and finds himself without a sufficient supply of gasoline, and is not able to reach an army station. I am told that the amount of gasoline purchased under these circumstances, that is, in the opinion of the officers—they had not any exact figures before them—would be considerably under one per cent of the amount of gasoline used; they felt quite sure of that estimate. There are no directions given to the drivers as to what commercial stations to patronize. This ought to be noted, that even though a commercial pump were owned by a contractor—that is to say, suppose a commercial pump were owned by a contractor such as Imperial Oil or the Canadian Oil company—a purchase at that pump by the driver would be regarded as a local emergency purchase, because the gasoline that is bought from the contractor is bought for delivery at the army station, not for delivery at a local tank. There would be an exception to this general rule in the case of some centre where there might be a number of army cars—perhaps two or three—but not sufficient to justify the installation of a pump. In that case Munitions and Supply would be asked to make a contract for the supply of gasoline by one of the local service stations, and that contract would be made on a competitive basis.

The hon. member for Vancouver South asked as to the annual cost of food per man. This is a rough estimate which has been made up, and I think it is approximately correct; \$153.30 per man per year.

Mr. GREEN: Is it the same overseas as in Canada?

Mr. RALSTON: I am told so. I am told that it is an average over-all figure.

The hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. Castle- den) asked the percentage of illiterates who enlisted. In June, 1942, the estimate for