

## Supply—Veterans Affairs

**Mr. White (Hastings-Peterborough):** I wonder if I could ask one question? At the last veterans affairs committee there was a brief on behalf of the Hong Kong veterans. Can the minister tell us how many of the Hong Kong veterans are receiving a pension and whether or not the pensions board gives any special allowances or consideration to them?

**Mr. Gregg:** I know my hon. friend was not in the committee this afternoon, and I hope he will read the statement I made about the Hong Kong veterans with regard to both treatment and pensions. The number in receipt of pension was just around 1,000, and approximately 200 more have entitlement for free hospitalization who are not in receipt of pension. This is out of a total of 1,415 survivors.

Item agreed to.

538. Newfoundland special awards, \$46,000.

**Mr. Higgins:** This item appears to be cut almost in half and perhaps the minister could explain. The minister might also explain just what this item covers.

**Mr. Gregg:** The item is trimmed to the actual need. As my hon. friend may know, before the union of Newfoundland with Canada there were a few veterans in Newfoundland who were in receipt of pension from the G.W.V.A., which was to all intents and purposes administering moneys under the former government of Newfoundland. In order to fulfil the terms of union to the last dollar it was arranged that this should come in as a special item and be carried forward as long as these particular recipients were alive.

**Mr. Higgins:** The need for this has now gone?

**Mr. Gregg:** The need for part of it is gone.

**Mr. Higgins:** Who advised you that the need was gone?

**Mr. Gregg:** They have all been provided for.

Item agreed to.

539. War veterans allowances, \$21,715,000.

**Mr. Harkness:** I should like to ask the minister whether this estimate includes the increased amount which it is estimated will be required as a result of the changes in the War Veterans Allowance Act to extend the benefit thereof to people who served in British and other allied forces during the first war?

**Mr. Gregg:** No, Mr. Chairman, that is not reflected here. It will be necessary to ask for a further supplementary amount of

[Mr. Gregg.]

approximately \$2 million. When these estimates were compiled the bill had not been brought forward.

**Mr. Harkness:** The increase of \$2 million is entirely due to the greater number of people who will become eligible this year?

**Mr. Gregg:** Yes.

Item agreed to.

540. Assistance fund (war veterans allowance), \$750,000.

**Mr. Lennard:** I should like to ask how this money was distributed by provinces, what amount in each province?

**Mr. Gregg:** It is not allotted in accordance with the population. As has been explained before, the intent of the fund is to take care of cases of hardship amongst recipients of war veterans allowance who have no other means of support. This breakdown is at the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 1950. It is as follows:

Province or city	Applications	
	Approved	Amount
Newfoundland .....	44	\$ 1,664.35
Charlottetown (P.E.I.) .....	97	6,987.68
Halifax (Nova Scotia) .....	430	25,918.48
Saint John (New Brunswick) ..	492	29,155.15
Quebec (eastern Quebec) .....	190	10,432.30
Montreal (western Quebec) ....	1,093	69,475.40
Ottawa .....	252	10,020.00
Kingston .....	122	7,441.67
Toronto .....	1,229	114,702.14
Hamilton .....	301	14,923.77
London .....	370	29,250.64
North Bay .....	287	14,996.90
Winnipeg .....	618	27,495.36
Regina .....	180	11,723.03
Saskatoon .....	253	14,198.97
Calgary .....	341	13,993.41
Edmonton .....	226	14,159.47
Vancouver .....	2,751	147,733.48
	9,276	\$564,252.20

**Mr. Lennard:** How many were monthly payments and how many were outright grants?

**Mr. Gregg:** We have never demanded that our district offices break that down for us. It would be a very difficult thing to do. Based upon the need in some cases, there might well be a grant to overcome the difficulty and a little later an increase in the war veterans allowance. Except as a matter of general interest, I doubt very much whether if it would be worth all the work that would be involved in preparing a statistical record.

**Mr. Lennard:** In other words, these amounts are for monthly payments?

**Mr. Gregg:** No, these are payments for the fiscal year, for the number of people in each district that I have indicated for the first year of the fund's history.