

have it started in only three cities. But that, after all, is only one branch of the work. I said I thought the vote was too small, and my hon. friend agreed with me. What amount does my hon. friend think would be fair to take charge of soldier unemployment for the year?

Mr. BELAND: We have provided \$150,000 in the supplementaries. We thought we would require more money especially on account of the strike in Nova Scotia. As a rule this unemployment among pensioners ceases almost entirely during the month of May, but this year in the strike area we have been spending a large amount each week, maintaining all the pensioners there.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am sure the country will not begrudge, and certainly the opposition will not withhold any support, in looking properly after unemployment among the soldiers.

Item agreed to.

Pensions—European war and active militia, \$34,000,000.

Mr. BELAND: This is always a big item. It is to provide for pensions in connection with the European war and the active militia. There is an increase of \$1,000,000 over last year, but it must be remembered that the time within which claims had to be presented for pensions expired on the 1st of September, 1924, and naturally a large number of claims were filed before that date with the pension board, and as a consequence, more awards have been made than in the usual course. In addition to that, the appeal board has also reversed a certain number of decisions, 190, I think, up to the 1st of April, and arrears have had to be adjusted, and still are being adjusted.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Has the minister considered making any change in the regulations in regard to a pensioner in the active militia who, having secured his pension, deserts his wife and family? According to the regulations the pensioner is entitled to keep all his pension and leave his wife and children behind without support. Several have deserted their wives and families in Canada and are now over in the Old Country, retaining their full pension, and leaving the wife and family to be supported by public charity.

Mr. BELAND: Does my hon. friend refer to the active militia or to the expeditionary force?

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): The permanent force. There was some suggestion that the law [Sir Henry Drayton.]

should be changed. Has anything been done in that regard?

Mr. BELAND: As my hon. friend is aware, the Militia Act is not in my department. I do not know that any change has taken place.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): The payment of the pension is in your department.

Mr. BELAND: Yes.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): And the minister still has to continue paying that pension, while the man's wife and family are supported by public charity.

Mr. BELAND: All that is at the discretion of the board, which examines into each individual case.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Several cases of this kind have been brought to the attention of the board, and they have ruled that they cannot interfere.

Mr. BELAND: They refuse to pay any part of the pension to the wife and children?

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Yes, till the law is changed.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): The question of militia pensions has been dealt with by the Department of National Defence. The point my hon. friend mentions has been brought to our attention, and we were considering introducing an amendment to the pension law this session to deal with that and some other points, but it has been decided not to do so until next year. I hope we shall be able to deal with the matter next session.

Item agreed to.

European war and active militia—further amount to meet the requirements of Bill No. 70, George V 15-16, 1925, sections 6, 8 and 10, \$1,276,000.

Mr. BELAND. In view of certain amendments to the bill which have not passed parliament the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) moves that this item be reduced by the sum of \$276,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Item as amended agreed to.

To meet the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Pensions and Re-establishment, George V. A. 1924. Sessional papers 203a, pages 74 and 75; to provide for the purchase of lands and the cost of erection of houses at Kamloops, B.C., for tuberculous ex-members of the forces, \$15,000.

Mr. BELAND: This amount is for the purchase of land and the cost of the erection of houses at Kamloops, British Columbia, for tuberculous ex-members of the forces. This is in pursuance of a recommendation of the