

Mr. BROOKS: Did the minister say that men called up for training, under the training scheme, who were permanently injured, would receive a pension under the Pension Act?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Yes, if they were injured on service, or if their injuries were attributable to or incurred on service.

Mr. BROOKS: They are not on active service. They are attached to the non-permanent active militia units, and are in a different category.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Yes.

Mr. WRIGHT: Has the minister the number of the men placed in trade schools and technical schools?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I shall have to get that information.

Mr. NICHOLSON: When amendments are being considered, there is another category to which I believe the minister's attention ought to be directed. For a considerable time I have had correspondence with a man who served with a forestry unit during the last war. He enlisted in 1916, and is now sixty-seven years old. According to information I have received, he was a first-class technician, carpenter, bridge-builder, millwright and lumberman. He built and ran a mill as a millwright. He offered his services, but on account of the valuable work he was doing in Scotland he was not allowed to go to France.

I understand that on account of his not serving in an actual theatre of war he is not entitled to a pension. Would the minister consider including in the eligible group those men with the forestry division who served in Great Britain, and could it be considered that they served in an actual theatre of war, and should be entitled to pension upon reaching the age of sixty years?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): That would involve an amendment to present legislation, and might very well be discussed in committee.

Mr. HAZEN: I realize it is difficult to make the provisions of the act cover fairly and equitably all deserving cases. I have in mind a case where I believe a hardship was suffered by a young man who enlisted. He enlisted in the medical corps, and after he had been there some months--

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): In this war?

[Mr. I. A. Mackenzie.]

Mr. HAZEN: Yes. He took the medical examination and was accepted. After he had been there for some time he came to the conclusion that if he were going to be in the armed forces of Canada it was his duty to be in a fighting unit. Therefore he applied to be transferred to an infantry battalion. When he joined this battalion he had to undergo another examination, when it was discovered that he had a perforated eardrum. As a consequence he was discharged. He found himself without work because he could not take up his old line of employment. He was out on the street, as it were, without work. He tried to get employment in the income tax branch, but without success. It seems to me that the committee should keep cases of this kind in mind.

I would suggest also that there be closer cooperation between the Minister of Pensions and National Health and the chairman of the civil service commission. I am not familiar with the act and there may be some cooperation at the present time, but I think there should be more. As I understand the regulations, a man who has seen service overseas is given preference in his application for a civil service position. The time will come when there will be many returned men looking for employment and I was wondering whether it would not be possible to keep open a number of positions in the civil service so that they would be available to men who have volunteered their services.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): The chairman of the civil service commission is giving attention to that very point at the present time.

Mr. HAZEN: During the last session we were told that about 3,500 new civil servants would have to be taken on in Ottawa under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Might it not be possible to keep open many of these positions, not fill them permanently until these soldiers return from overseas?

The minister may know more about this particular matter than I do, but I have been told that during this winter the Lancaster military hospital near Saint John has been understaffed and overcrowded. I should like him to look into this complaint to see whether it is correct. The second part of the resolution states that it is expedient to make further changes and adjustments in the procedure and administration of the Pension Act. Would the minister give us some idea as to what these changes will be?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): They are minor routine changes. For instance, it is proposed to change the quorum of the