

come within the category under general order 139, and I would ask the minister why a distinction is made in their case. Why are they not treated in the usual way upon discharge? These men are not given any clothing allowance. In every other respect these men are treated the same as those who receive a clothing allowance on discharge. The difference in treatment has caused considerable difficulty and some unrest. Would the minister explain, first, why the clothing allowance is not given to men in this category when it is given to men who are discharged in the ordinary way, and second, if the facts are as I have given them, and I think they are, will the minister give consideration to allowing a clothing allowance to the men who come within this category?

Mr. RALSTON: On the first point I say frankly that I cannot give my hon. friend the reason. These pay and allowance regulations are fearfully and wonderfully made. But they are the result of a good deal of thought and consideration by those who took the merits pretty well into consideration. I remember the pay and allowance regulations being reviewed prior to 1939 by a responsible body of men, and they were not men in the army alone. As a result these regulations were evolved. That does not say they are like the laws of the Medes and Persians, because they have frequently been amended since. But I shall certainly look into the matter. As I remember it, the clothing allowance is granted after six months' service. But I will see what the reasons are and whether any changes can be made.

Mr. GRAYDON: I would ask the minister to do that if he would, because the men I have in mind had all served for six months, which is the period the minister mentioned. I should be glad if he would give this matter his earnest consideration with a view to seeing whether some change should be made.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): This item deals with stores, clothing and personal equipment. In the early stages of the war the army was at somewhat of a disadvantage because it was felt that the uniform was not as attractive or glamorous as uniforms in some of the other services. The minister is to be congratulated upon having issued to the army the walking-out uniform, which has done a great deal to improve the morale of the men. I believe in giving credit where credit is due, and I wish to say that whoever was responsible for designing the Canadian Women's

[Mr. Graydon.]

Army Corps uniform is to be congratulated because it is by far the smartest uniform in all the women's services.

Mr. JACKMAN: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I think it is generally accepted by everyone that the Canadian Women's Army Corps uniform is by far the smartest of all.

Mr. REID: The air force pipe band's is not bad.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I am speaking only of uniforms.

Mr. REID: That is a uniform. Don't be insulting.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): May I ask the minister whether the Canadian army has decided to use the bowler type of tin hat? I understand that in Britain the British government have decided to adopt or at least are giving consideration to adopting a steel helmet similar to that used by United States troops, on the ground that it gives better protection to the back of the head and around the ears. Has the Canadian army given consideration to that, and if so, has any decision been reached?

The other question I wanted to ask was with reference to revolvers which I understand are now issued to all non-commissioned officers, to No. 1 man on the Bren gun, and to commissioned officers. I have been told that the Canadian army along with the other forces of the British commonwealth is the only one that uses the single-action revolver; that all the other armies use the automatic revolver. I tried to ascertain the reason, and the statement was made that there is greater accuracy and less waste of ammunition with the single-action revolver. But that does not look like a very good argument because, if the automatic, even if it wasted ammunition, saved a man's life, it would be well worth it. Has consideration been given to issuing the automatic revolver instead of the single-action type? If not, what is the reason for continuing to use the single-action revolver?

Mr. RALSTON: First, with regard to the bowler type of tin hat, the revised or United States pattern, extensive study and actual tests have been made of an improved pattern both in the United Kingdom and by the Canadian army. Exactly the same consideration will be given here that is being given in Great Britain. We are just waiting for a report on tests that are being made of certain modifications, having regard to providing a