training. He would know you have to have men to provide supplies, to provide ordnance and equipment, as well as men actually to shoulder rifles. These are all part of the modern army. The endeavour has been to see to it—and it is being done more in this war than any other—that staff officers are kept in touch with regimental work, and the reverse, namely, that regimental officers are kept in touch with staff work, by making the positions transferable. That has been the practice which has been followed, not only in Canada but overseas as well.

I can only say that I am not going over the names of these officers, because it would be invidious to single out any of them. I think every officer he has named, and every officer he can name who is attached to national defence headquarters, would be only too happy to serve overseas if the occasion came. As a matter of fact I do not know all these officers who have been named, but many of them have been overseas. The hon. member mentioned one who, I happen to know, is overseas to-day.

I say only to the hon. member and to the committee that the duty of Canada is to provide the best from which to support our overseas army, as well as Canadian defence. We are endeavouring to do that by having officers who are properly equipped, who are efficient and who know their work and by giving them experience overseas as fast as we can. Many of those at national defence headquarters have come back from overseas, and many are going overseas. I make no apology. I say that it is unworthy of a member of this house to make the attack which the hon. member has made upon these men who are doing their duty because that is where they have been told their duty lies.

Mr. POULIOT: I have just one word to say in reply to the hon. gentleman. I shall use his own slogan and say that I have no apology to make for what I have said. He has no copyright on that slogan, so I shall use it. I want the committee to understand my position with regard to these gentlemen. We have just voted an item of $8,832,687 for civilians in the department. I have no objection to the minister being assisted by civilians in connection with civilian work, but that men who have had no service should receive allowances just because they are in uniform is I think most unfair to the taxpayers of this country. I am glad the Minister of National Defence did not go as far as the Prime Minister went and accuse me of attacking those who are shedding their blood for their country. I never did that. He stopped within the limits beyond which he should not pass in describing these gentlemen. I did not attack them. I did not say that their work is useless because I do not know what it is. What I have stated is true, that they get their promotions through being in headquarters at Ottawa. I still submit, even though I may be alone in doing so, that it is most unfair to pay allowances to the dependents of men who are in uniform but who are not in the army. That is all I have to say at the moment.

Mr. LOCKHART: This would seem an opportune time for the minister to make clear to the committee, and to those on the outside who are interested, the workings of the dependents' board of trustees. I shall cite one particular case for the minister's guidance. A widowed mother has one son serving overseas and another now at Camp Borden. She was suddenly stricken with an acute illness and had to go to the hospital. The young man who is at Camp Borden was considerably worried and harassed over the situation. Accounts totalling $500 or more had accumulated in connection with hospital and medical services. Certain relief has been granted and I understand that fifty or sixty per cent of the amount of the accounts has been paid. However, the hospital in particular is pressing for further payment. It is impossible for a young man earning $1.30 a day to pay the rest of these bills. I should like some indication of the attitude which will be adopted in cases such as these. I know of several, but the circumstances in this case are particularly acute. If the minister could make a statement as to what actually constitutes the power of the dependents' board of trustees it would be most enlightening to many soldiers who have mothers at home and other dependents.

I should like the minister to give information at the proper time as to the pay which is held back overseas. An hon. member this afternoon raised the question of insurance and reference has been made to security after the war. I may be wrongly informed, but my information is that a certain part of the pay of single men overseas is held back and that some of them have accumulated certain sums of money which will be available to them at some future time. I am informed that they can draw on this money, although I do not know for what particular reason, and then I am informed by another source that the money is all held for the soldier until he is dis-