

projects are being continued from then. As the hon. member knows, the local committees made their recommendations to the veterans' assistance commission here in Ottawa, and they had over a year in which to do it. I do not anticipate there will be many new projects submitted during the present year.

Mr. GREEN: It does not seem reasonable for the government to reduce the vote, in view of the fact the minister has announced he will not accept the main recommendation of the veterans' assistance commission, which was to provide temporary aid for the fit unemployed veterans. The money used last year amounted to \$260,000, and yet this year it is to be only \$150,000. If there are no new schemes, is not the result that the 10,000 front line men who are fit and the recommendation with regard to whom was refused, will simply remain in the position they are in now, which is on the ordinary provincial or municipal relief?

Mr. POWER: I hardly think so. In that \$260,000 there was included a fairly large amount for the purpose of land settlement, and so on. That will not be repeated this year. Besides, the requirements were made largely through honorary local committees. As the hon. member knows, provision is made in these estimates to keep the men working. I am informed that when the commission reported in early January there were placements amounting to 8,000 to 10,000.

Mr. GREEN: Many are just casual.

Mr. POWER: I have not the exact figures here, so I shall not go into details.

Mr. GREEN: Is it intended to create new honorary committees?

Mr. POWER: No; there has been no demand for any.

Mr. GREEN: What portion of the vote is for office expenditures and administration expenses?

Mr. POWER: About \$30,000 will be for the payment of secretaries, and so on.

Mr. GREEN: At page 158 of the estimates the temporary assistance is shown at \$50,000. Apparently the only portion of the vote of \$100,000 available for projects is the sum of \$35,000.

Mr. POWER: Plus the sum of \$50,000 in the supplementaries.

Mr. GREEN: A total of \$85,000.

Mr. POWER: Yes; about that.

Mr. GREEN: How much of that expense is incurred here in Ottawa?

Mr. POWER: Not a cent in Ottawa.

Mr. GREEN: Is there any staff here now?

Mr. POWER: No.

Mr. GREEN: No staff working on those projects?

Mr. POWER: I am wrong in that statement; there is a staff of two, namely Mr. B. W. Allen and Mr. L. McKenna.

Mr. MacNEIL: The minister no doubt will agree that the work of the local voluntary committees is extremely important. It represents an effort by businessmen to assume some responsibility with regard to the absorption of ex-service men into industrial enterprises. I scrutinized carefully the statement made by the minister on March 17 when he dealt with the recommendations of the commission certiorari. After consideration of this appropriation I find it difficult to discover what possibilities there are for enlarging the scope of the activities of the Vancouver honorary committee beyond the provision of the corps of commissionaires. As matters stand, I see nothing but to proceed with the promotion of the plan that we started which was especially adapted to conditions in British Columbia.

A second point I have in mind refers to a statement made on the same date by the minister with regard to the tools, equipment and transportation fund. He was good enough to give us his assurance that the recommendation of the commission would be implemented. I had occasion to talk over with the officials of the department the case of an ex-service fisherman. This man had his own boat and required a small loan in order to proceed with operations in the approaching fishing system. I have no criticism to make of the officials of the department as they were extremely courteous. They told me that departmental action was under consideration, but there seemed to be some doubt as to whether the provisions of the last fiscal year would be extended over to the present fiscal year. I think such cases are distinctly worth while. A little boost in the form of a loan would enable this man to secure independence after his first successful fishing season.

Mr. POWER: We have set aside by order in council a certain sum to take care of loans of that kind. I understand that my hon. friend's protege wanted a loan of \$500 or \$600, whereas the limit was \$50.

Mr. GREEN: How is this vote to be allotted to the different projects?

Mr. POWER: We have no definite allotments at the present time; they are only