

Supply—Veterans Affairs

Mr. Harkness: A little while ago the minister said that he would send me a copy of the balance sheet. That is very nice. I may get it in a week or so, but it will certainly not be any good to me as far as the discussion on this estimate is concerned. As far as I can make out, there is some \$500,000, probably more than that, on which we have not been given any explanation. I asked whether it was profit, whether it was reserves or what the situation was in connection with it. That is the explanation I should like to have.

Mr. Gregg: Let us take a date, say March 31, 1950. My hon. friend has a sharp pencil. Under the heading of receipts appears the fund as at March 31, 1949. That is carried forward, and amounts to \$4,156,238.49. Still under receipts appears, interest on fund at 3½ per cent, \$168,536.15. Under that, interest on overdue premiums, \$140.71. Under that, premiums received, \$1,980,085.28. Under that, claim repayments recovered through subsequent awards under the Pension Act, death benefits, under a subheading, \$2,061.28; annuity payments, \$872.97. These are all under receipts. The total is \$6,307,889.88.

Now, under expenditures, payments at death—includes \$4,892.40 paid up insurance, section 10—the total there is \$92,057.44. There were annuity payments of \$36,458.92. Excess premiums refunded amounted to \$28,976.27. Cash surrender values paid—this partly answers the question asked—\$149,538.93. Payments under change of plan of policy, \$2,990.27. Total disbursements, \$311,021.83. The difference between that and the total net receipts gives a balance of \$5,996,868.05, making a total of \$6,307,889.88.

Mr. Harkness: The minister said the payments into the fund were \$6,700,000 odd, which still leaves \$500,000. Where does that come in?

Mr. Gregg: I am afraid I do not understand just where the hon. member gets his \$500,000.

Mr. Harkness: The minister said the receipts were \$5,900,000, which is the figure just given to us made up of a number of smaller items, but he said at the same time that the payments into the fund amounted to \$6,700,000, which gives a difference of some \$800,000. The total payments out were \$311,000, which leaves out of the \$800,000 approximately \$500,000.

Mr. Gregg: I am afraid my earlier figures misled the hon. member. The \$5 million figure was not a payment into the fund, it was the net balance of the fund itself.

Item agreed to.

Payments to or for veterans and dependents—

537. Pensions for disability and death, including pensions granted under the authority of the civilian government employees (war) compensation order P.C. 45/8848 of 22nd November, 1944, which shall be subject to the Pension Act, \$99,739,000.

Mr. Cardiff: I received a complaint the other day, in connection with the pension of £10 which is paid when a Victoria Cross is awarded, about this money being in sterling rather than Canadian funds.

Mr. Gregg: The item we are on deals with disability pensions but I shall attempt to answer the hon. member. In world war I there were certain awards such as the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal which carried pensions. If the Victoria Cross was won by a man in the ranks he received a pension of £10 per year in English money from the war office; if it was won by an officer, he got nothing. In the second world war Canada assumed the responsibility of making these payments. I am rather inclined to think that the inquiry the hon. member refers to has to do with a Victoria Cross won in the first great war.

Mr. Cardiff: That is so.

Mr. Gregg: I suppose it indicates the growth of our Canadian nationhood that in 1919 it was considered that these should be paid in the way they were, and in this last war the method of payment was changed. The following is the list of awards being made by Canada to recipients in world war II:

	No. of recipients	Total amount paid
Victoria Cross	2	\$ 100.00
George Medal	3	150.00
Military Medal	252	11,498.76
D.S.M.	8	365.04
D.F.M.	42	1,916.46
D.F.C.	14	638.82
M.C.	3	136.89
D.C.M.	40	1,825.20

With regard to the military crosses it will be noted that if won by an officer, no pension is paid, but where won by a warrant officer, a pension is paid.

Mr. Cardiff: This man complains that he is being discriminated against because the pound has gone down in value, and I think this amounts to a difference of \$37 per year.

Mr. Gregg: I have had correspondence with some recipients of this pension. The hon. member will realize that the amount is more of a token payment than anything else. There have been other recipients who have stated to me that they would like to have the payments continue from the original source, the war office. I assure my hon. friend that I shall keep it in mind.