

who served in the non-permanent active militia, the reserves of the navy and of the air force, including such units of the non-permanent militia as the university contingent of the C.O.T.C. Before we adjourned, I called attention to the fact that the corps or gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military College and the naval cadets of the Royal Naval College of Royal Roads were not included. I pointed out that the corps of gentlemen cadets at the Royal Military College had not in the past been recognized as being an integral part of the non-permanent militia of Canada. In fact, King's Rules and Regulations say that the Royal Military College is supplementary to, though not an integral part of, the permanent militia; but it is generally recognized that the training which gentlemen cadets received at the Royal Military College did fit them admirably for the service of their country when they had graduated from that college and had gone into the various units of the militia. That fact was recognized because they were given seniority over individuals entering into the permanent force from other sources, such as through the militia or graduating from the university C.O.T.C. The gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military College were given one year's seniority over those who came in from the non-permanent active militia. Furthermore, that training was recognized by the fact that the time spent at the Royal Military College was permitted to count toward the efficiency decoration which was awarded after so many years of service in one of the units of the militia. They were also allowed to count their service at the Royal Military College toward their promotion and toward increases of pay according to the term of years which they had served. For instance, a subaltern got a raise in pay after three years service and another raise in pay after six years service. The service that an individual had put in at the Royal Military College had always counted toward these increases in pay. My contention is that, although the Royal Military College may not be recognized as being an integral part of the non-permanent militia, there is no question about it that these young men who were at that college were there with the idea of preparing themselves for an emergency. They operated in exactly the same way as the young men who were in the non-permanent militia units preparing themselves.

It is true that the gentlemen cadets at the Royal Military College were under military discipline while there. On the outbreak of the first world war, the senior classes were at once closed and were given the opportunity, which

they at once accepted, of entering into the services of the country. Therefore it is purely a legal quibble to say that they are not a part of the militia. Their years of preparation justify them just as much as the years of preparation which the other young men of the country put in the university C.O.T.C. for this recognition. I feel it is an oversight that the Royal Military College and the Royal Naval College, Royal Roads, have been omitted from this provision, and I am sure the minister will realize this. I hope he will agree to adding these two corps to this list.

Mr. CLAXTON: When the discussion of section 2 was adjourned the hon. member had asked me whether the point he was making had been considered by the government when this clause was drafted. I should point out that the clause in the bill before us makes no change whatever in the existing situation with regard to the type of service that will be counted for pension purposes. This clause, in so far as the point made by the hon. member for Nanaimo is concerned, is in the same terms as the clause that was adopted by this house last year when part V of the Militia Pension Act was enacted, and indeed a similar provision will be found in the Militia Pension Act amendments of 1928, in the Revised Statutes, 1927, chapter 133, section 8, and in 1919, and a similar clause, though not in the same words, will be found in the amendments made to the Militia Pension Act as far back as 1910 when for the first time, I think I am correct in saying, service in the non-permanent active militia was to count for past service in the permanent force for pension purposes.

I have made inquiries and find that the point put forward by my hon. friend has been advanced at various times during this whole period. It is not an oversight. This has received the most serious consideration, and it has simply been found, without derogation to the fine qualities and characteristics of the Royal Military College and Royal Roads, that they are not "services", and the Militia Act puts pension on the basis of "service". The basis on which pension is calculated is service in one of the armed forces of Canada, and I should point out that section 42, subsection 1, provides that not only must the service in the non-permanent active militia—the reserve as we call it now—be in a unit of the non-permanent active militia, but in order to count for your pension when you are in the active army, the service must have been with the army; and in order to count for your pension with the navy, the service must have been with the naval reserve, and similarly with the air force.