

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Then it is the intention to make these tests compulsory as soon as possible after a man has enlisted; is that it?

Mr. RALSTON: The order is out now making it compulsory for the medical officers to give the men the test. There is only one thing that is lacking, namely, laboratory facilities. They are available in quite a number of the provinces, and as fast as they become available generally the tests will be given. We shall be able to catch up with those who did not have the test promptly after they came in. We expect that by July 1, the machinery will be in operation over the dominion.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Will the minister tell us after recess how many men in Canada and how many men overseas have been tested up to date?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes; I shall have that.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. GREEN: Has the minister the information about reclaiming men who are unfit?

Mr. RALSTON: No.

The hon. member for Weyburn asked the numbers who had been given the Wassermann test in Canada and overseas to date. We have not the overseas figures, but in Canada over 143,000 were tested in 1942, and the approximate number to date this year is 75,000. The plan is that the facilities will be such that about 360,000 will have been tested during this year, beginning with June 1.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Are plans being made to give all the men overseas the Wassermann test also?

Mr. QUELCH: Has the minister obtained information regarding the Youngstown project?

Mr. RALSTON: I shall have to ask my hon. friend to give me more particulars about that. I intended to inquire, but was so crowded that I did not have time.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): On May 13 I had on the order paper a question, which was passed as an order for a return, in regard to checking for venereal disease the men who had been enlisted into the army. I asked if they were checked. I also wish to know if those who were rejected for the army were also checked. The reason why I ask is that if those checked are given treatment and cured, they might make good material later on for the army. Since then, I notice that

Lieutenant-Colonel Williams said at a meeting of the social security committee of this house that an army general order had gone out three weeks before to give routine blood tests for venereal disease to those enlisted in the army. Has that policy been started yet?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes. Perhaps my hon. friend was not here this afternoon.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): I had to go out just before six o'clock.

Mr. RALSTON: That routine order has been issued. The principal necessity in connection with the Wassermann test is laboratory facilities. It is a blood test and the test has to be made in the laboratory. Arrangements have been made with all the provinces to supply their laboratory facilities, and by June 1—I said July this afternoon—it is expected that things will be in shape to start the tests immediately and to follow them through so that about 360,000 will have been tested when the year is over. There seems to be some misapprehension about the Wassermann test, and my hon. friend showed it in his question. Men are not generally rejected, as I understand it, because they happen to show a positive reaction; treatment, unless they are in a late stage, is efficacious and generally cures them. Therefore, men are taken in, not rejected on that account. The men who are so far gone, shall I say, as to be rejected go back into civil life. Was my hon. friend asking whether these cases were reported?

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): That is what I wished to find out, whether they are quarantined and reported, as I believe is done in the United States, given treatment and let go when cured.

Mr. RALSTON: They are all reported to the civilian authorities if they are rejected on that account.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): The minister stated that the tests are to begin in June or July. I understand that practically all the training camps across Canada permit the men to go to the Red Cross blood-donor clinics and give their blood. When they go to these clinics they are given the Wassermann test. Does the army keep a check on these cases to see if they are O.K.?

Mr. RALSTON: The director-general of medical services advises me that we do get a check on that. When men who go from the army to these blood-donor clinics are found to have a Wassermann reaction, we get a report on them.