

*War Appropriation*

Mr. BENCE: In connection with order in council P.C. 2291, respecting the reconditioning of men who have volunteered for active service, what is the satisfactory undertaking in writing in suitable form which is referred to in section 1, subsection (e) of the regulations, and what provision is made in the event that the man refuses, after giving such an undertaking, to take the necessary attestation to go on active service?

Also, has the department a record with regard to the men who have been discharged from the army since the beginning of the war, to the number of 40,000—I have not the exact figure, but I believe it is in excess of that—and whom it reasonably hopes to recondition under the provisions of P.C. 2291? Also, how many men have been called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act to whom the provisions of order in council 2229, respecting their reconditioning, would apply? Also will the minister tell us when the provisions of those two orders in council came into effect or are to come into effect?

Mr. RALSTON: If my hon. friend will let me interrupt him here, he is asking me about two orders in council which were passed on the recommendation of the Minister of Pensions and National Health, with my full concurrence and with the collaboration of the Department of National Defence. The orders in council are in effect now. The officers of both departments are busily engaged, and have been since the announcement was made, in working out the procedure with regard to both those orders in council and making the regulations. Hon. members will understand that we have to work out the procedure. In the first place we have to come to an agreement as to what disabilities, generally speaking, are "mendable", to use the expression which appears in the order in council. That has to be done between the doctors of the Department of Pensions and National Health and the army doctors, in order that the army board which is examining the particular individual may know whether it is worth while to refer that man to the Department of Pensions and National Health to be mended. The procedure is being worked out also with regard to the possibility of having on that board a doctor from the Department of Pensions and National Health. The next thing is the matter of the concentration of these men, where they are to go; and I understand quite a number of details have to be worked out.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Is the scheme functioning yet?

Mr. RALSTON: It is functioning to this extent: in cases which are apparent, the Department of Pensions and National Health

[Mr. Ralston.]

is taking them over, but I would not say that any large number have been received so far because the regulations have not been completed.

On another point which my hon. friend asked about, namely, the form of undertaking for voluntary enlistment, I have just asked the adjutant general, and he tells me that this is a part of the regulations and that the regulations are under discussion between the two departments.

Mr. BENCE: Before the minister goes on, I have just one more question, and it has relation to the point he is covering now. How far and in what form are these regulations being publicized?

Mr. RALSTON: They have been tabled here; that was done at the time the Prime Minister made the statement on man-power. I do not know what steps are being taken by the two departments to publicize them, but of course that would be part of the plan which is being worked out.

Mr. BENCE: I was thinking how important it was in connection with recruiting stations, advertising, the putting out of posters, and things like that.

Mr. RALSTON: Of course the way to publicize them is to have the medical board fully informed as to what rights a man has.

Mr. BENCE: A man might be suffering from hernia, for example, and if it was publicized that he could receive treatment, probably he would make himself available immediately.

Mr. MacINNIS: May I ask a question in connection with these two orders in council?

Mr. BENCE: I wonder if I might have answers to my questions.

Mr. RALSTON: I will do the best I can with the very limited information I have at my disposal. My hon. friend is asking about technical matters with regard to medicine. I do not profess to be an expert, and I have not one of the medical officers here at the moment.

My hon. friend asked first, I think, whether the same provision was made for treatment of minor defects for active service men as for the home defence men. The answer is yes. That is to say, there are certain things in the way of provision of glasses, dental treatment and matters of the kind which are afforded for both the active service men and the home defence men.

My hon. friend asked what is meant by the provision of glasses. All I can say is this: the regulations with regard to the physical