

*Supply—Veterans Affairs*

ments of treaty money are reported, but in no case have they been sufficiently large to have any bearing on the award made to the Indian.

The hon. member for Nanaimo referred to the status of our seamstresses. The department employs seamstresses throughout its several institutions, but these personnel occupy temporary positions exempt from the Civil Service Act, which consequently are not found in the detail of classified positions. They are paid at the prevailing rate as advised by the Department of Labour for such employment in their respective areas. In the Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver areas they are paid \$960 a year, elsewhere \$756 a year. The department has under active consideration the propriety of a general upward revision of the compensation to this group of employees.

In the detail of items appearing on page 5486 of *Hansard*, the words "provisional lands" in line 2 of item 551 should be corrected to read "provincial lands".

As to the question asked just now by the hon. member for Vancouver South, I have the final report of the parliamentary committee on veterans affairs, and I will bring that forward to the attention of the government during the recess.

Mr. GREEN: Has any action been taken with regard to any of these recommendations? For example, there was a recommendation with regard to the size of a small holding in the Yukon. I think that change could be made by order in council and does not require legislation. There may be other recommendations that could be made without amending legislation.

Mr. GREGG: No action has been taken on the main recommendations, but in respect of the one mentioned by the hon. member just now, definite action is going forward during the next three weeks to see whether the Yukon situation cannot be solved under authority at present existing.

Mr. GREEN: Has any action been taken with regard to such recommendations as those in favour of former members of the Canadian Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade? The hon. member for Wentworth asked me to bring that up. The committee recommended that they be granted (a) if pensionable, eligibility for vocational training as provided for veterans, or equivalent educational training; and (b) a gratuity of fifteen dollars for every thirty days of service in an actual theatre of war. Has any action been taken on that recommendation, or is it possible to take action without amending legislation?

[Mr. Gregg.]

Mr. GREGG: No action has been taken; but the items mentioned, as well as others in the recommendations, are being carefully studied with a view to finding out, before taking it up with the government, the point mentioned as to what method would be most appropriate if action is needed.

Mr. GREEN: There was also a recommendation that vocational training be made available for the men of the merchant navy. Is it possible for that to be done without an amending statute? I would suggest to the minister that the benefit be not restricted to vocational training. I know several young men who served in the merchant navy and who are attending university. I am afraid that the recommendation of the committee does not include the educational benefits. The minister will correct me if I am wrong on that point. I hope that when the recommendation is being considered the minister will see fit to give them, not only vocational training but also educational benefits. It is a most unfair situation when you have two young men in the same class at university, one of whom served with the merchant navy under fire, the other having served only in Canada, and the man in the merchant navy can get no help, whereas the man who served only in Canada gets an educational grant. I suggest that there is no justification for a situation of that kind.

Mr. GREGG: As to the recommendation of the parliamentary committee, while these young men had had an opportunity for training in seamanship, evidence was brought before the committee which made it appear that the demand for work as seamen in civilian life was not as great as during the war, and the view of the committee was that something should be done to provide them with an opportunity for vocational training in other fields of activity. There was no recommendation as to university training. Incidentally, I believe there was little demand, but no recommendation was made. I have undertaken a study of vocational training possibilities in co-operation with the Department of Transport, which is also interested in it.

Mr. GREEN: One more question. There was a recommendation that the crops of Canadian overseas firefighters should be made eligible to receive the Canadian volunteer service medal and also that they be given the veterans preference in employment in the civil service. Certainly it is possible to give them that medal without further legislation, and I hope the minister will see that they get it. I suppose they could not get the benefit of the preference without legislation. The minister will tell me whether I am correct.