

Mr. BELAND: I said \$1,019,000; that was for the year just ended March 31st.

Mr. KENNEDY (Edmonton): What proportion of that went for administration?

Mr. BELAND: In round numbers, \$55,000. I may point out that all the men employed in the extension of this unemployment relief are returned men, mostly disabled. This is the way in which we extend the relief; we employ the men.

Mr. STEVENS: Does this item include the assistance given to the Red Cross Society? There is a place in Vancouver where provision is made for a number of disabled soldiers. Does this item include a grant to that institution?

Mr. BELAND: The hon. member is referring to the workshops?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes.

Mr. BELAND: No; that matter was provided for in the Main Estimates.

Mr. MANION: Did the item of nearly a million dollars in the Main Estimates carry? This is a supplementary estimate.

Mr. BELAND: Yes.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What is being done by the government in the way of securing employment for returned men? I know that in British Columbia during the past winter a large number of disabled returned men were out of employment and some of the newspapers found it necessary to put on a campaign for the purpose of securing work for them. The campaign was fairly successful and it showed what can be done in that direction. In former years under the previous government I believe that the minister's department took active steps in this connection and did endeavour to secure employment for returned men, particularly those who were disabled. Is the present government continuing that work, and if so, what is it doing?

Mr. BELAND: Up to a recent date employment was secured for disabled soldiers through our own offices in every unit in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, London, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, and St. John. We have decided to hand over this section of our work to the government employment bureau in every province. At present in British Columbia, which perhaps interests my hon. friend more than any other province, the provincial employment office has a handicap section whose duties consist

in procuring employment exclusively for disabled soldiers who make application there. From that handicap section a man goes out and covers the ground as completely as possible with a view to finding a job that will fit in with the disability of the particular applicant. This we think works more satisfactorily than the previous system because naturally the employers would place their request for labour in the employment office of the province; and each province is willing to have a handicap section in its midst. Every job is first of all offered to disabled soldiers. If a disabled soldier is qualified to take the position, he is of course awarded it. We make it a point to give the preference to returned men. This I think works out quite satisfactorily.

Mr. BOYS: This vote takes care of the situation to the 31st March last?

Mr. BELAND: Yes.

Mr. BOYS: Have there been any requests for relief since that date?

Mr. BELAND: Yes. It is covered in the Main Estimates, but there is a decrease of \$150,000.

Mr. KENNEDY (Edmonton): What do the two orders in council refer to?

Mr. BELAND: These orders in council were passed last year, one to extend the relief in the month of April, and the other in the month of May. The relief ceased during the summer months.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Does the Dominion government contribute to the expense of keeping up the provincial employment offices?

Mr. BELAND: That is mainly a question for the Minister of Labour to answer, but I think I am within the mark when I say that 50 per cent is contributed for the upkeep of these offices. As far as the handicap section is concerned, we as a department pay the whole cost.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What supervision has the Dominion government over the employment officers of the province to see whether they are carrying out their duties satisfactorily?

Mr. BELAND: In every unit we have special officials to attend to this supervision. I am not able to speak for the Labour department, but I presume they have their representatives also in every capital.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What is meant by every unit?