

vote for war veterans' allowances seem higher than they were for the vote in the original estimates. I believe they work out at about five per cent of the amounts to be paid to the recipients. Why is that? I understand it was only about two per cent in the other case.

Mr. POWER: This will be temporary, and as soon as the rush is over the staff will be adjusted.

Mr. BROOKS: What is the basis of payment to the members of the soldier settlement board? Will they be paid on a mileage basis?

Mr. POWER: I have not any idea of that at all. The persons I mentioned a moment ago are not employees of this department. I was merely saying that the Department of Pensions utilizes the services of the employees of the soldier settlement board to make investigations in rural districts, and that for that service the board have asked us to pay a certain amount.

Mr. BROOKS: Is not the minister responsible for paying them?

Mr. POWER: We are paying \$45,000 in a lump sum for work they do every day throughout Canada.

Mr. BROOKS: How did you arrive at the sum of \$45,000?

Mr. POWER: There was a calculation made as to the cost in each investigation, and I believe it worked out at about \$6 or \$7 for each one. After considerable negotiation between the departments it was decided that if the Department of Pensions would allot \$45,000 to the soldier settlement board, they would be able to do our work for us this year.

Mr. BROOKS: Would the soldier settlement board make recommendations to the department?

Mr. POWER: They merely investigate cases.

Mr. BROOKS: They do not make recommendations?

Mr. POWER: No.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): I notice there is provision for two members of the board at \$6,000 each. Why is that item in the supplementary rather than the general estimates? Are they new appointees for this particular position?

Mr. POWER: Yes; under legislation which passed the house in the month of April. At the time the main estimates were made up the board consisted of three men;

[Mr. Green.]

but under the new legislation which passed the house some time in April the personnel of the board was increased to five members, so that we have to make provision for them in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): Do any of the five members of the board receive less than \$6,000?

Mr. POWER: No; that is the statutory salary.

Mr. NEILL: I should like to add that the arrangement by which the soldier settlers do this work is an excellent one. They are living in the district and have been familiar with the men for perhaps a period of years. The work can be done more cheaply and more quickly than by an official sent from a distant city. It is a thoroughly good system, and I hope the minister will continue it.

Item agreed to.

Services to veterans and dependents—For the continuation or carrying out of projects or schemes commenced or recommended by the veterans' assistance commission and to authorize the employment or continuation in employment by the governor in council of such extra temporary officers, clerks and employees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Veterans' Assistance Commission Act, \$100,000.

Mr. MacNEIL: What are the plans of the department under this appropriation? I would remind the minister that in 1936 the appropriation was \$500,000 for the veterans' assistance commission. In 1937 there was a revote of \$400,000, plus \$250,000 for probational training. This year there is an amount of \$100,000 in the main estimates and a further sum of \$50,000 in the supplementaries. It strikes me that this is hardly adequate for the work outlined.

Mr. POWER: The hon. member is quite correct when he says the original vote in 1936-37 was \$500,000. There was an expenditure that year of \$99,572.25. In 1937-38 there was a vote of \$400,000, and, according to the latest figures, an expenditure of about \$260,000, leaving \$140,000 unexpended. In the main estimates of this year there is a vote of \$100,000, and if the hon. member consults the supplementaries he will find an additional vote of \$50,000, making a total of \$150,000. There is also in the main estimates one of \$120,000 for probational training.

Mr. GREEN: It is not intended there shall be much extension in the projects to be undertaken?

Mr. POWER: A certain amount was provided last year, and a great many of the