

man-power would be at headquarters, perhaps at camps, training centres and places of that kind. But there is no establishment there to compare with the establishments overseas, and we ought to be able to serve them with the fewest possible doctors consistent with satisfactory service and the proper maintenance of health. However, I have made a note to examine fully into that.

With regard to housing, there is not much I can add. I have been listening to hear of actual cases. My hon. friend has given two concrete and appealing cases. He has referred to the man who came to gather his family for Christmas and the man who had to take his family through a restaurant kitchen in order to get a place in which they could live. That does not sound right to me and I shall look into it. With regard to pay overseas, my hon. friend suggests that the efficiency requisite for overseas pay be cut out. I suppose what he means is that it be presumed that a man who has gone overseas—

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: For increase of pay.

Mr. RALSTON: The efficiency test was for the purpose of basic training. In some units overseas there has been a test of that kind, not to require them to take the full four months basic training but to get the condensed course of which I have spoken.

Mr. GRAYDON: Does that efficiency test apply to all ranks?

Mr. RALSTON: It only goes up to lance-corporal. It is only to qualify for increased pay.

Mr. GRAYDON: Everyone is presumed to be proficient if he is above a lance-corporal?

Mr. RALSTON: He does not get any more pay on account of efficiency. The fifty days condensed course is for the purpose of giving qualification in basic training. I know one does not wish to plead that there is only a small number affected, but the fact is that the number is only small. I gave it yesterday. Between eighty and eighty-five per cent of a cross-section which was taken have already been awarded increased pay. I do not think there are very many who are being deprived of it.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: The minister would not say that the fifty days of basic training are given expressly for the purpose of qualifying these men for increased pay?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes. You take the staff of the corps of militia staff clerks, or people like that, who have not been given the basic training. It is useful, as my hon. friend knows.

[Mr. Ralston.]

He and I know the situation that arises when the cooks, the batmen, the clerks and all the rest go up to the line, and it is desirable that they all have some basic training.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: That is my point; it is desirable for army efficiency.

Mr. RALSTON: That is right.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. REID: Mr. Chairman, there is one matter I should like to draw to the minister's attention, but before doing so may I outline the circumstances with respect to one case, although I realize particular cases should be left to some other time, rather than be discussed in the committee stage. However, this afternoon a great deal of discussion centred round the medical inspection of men before enlistment.

A case which is causing some concern and wonderment in British Columbia was drawn to my attention. It is the case of a man who applied for hospitalization or treatment for his leg. It so happens that this man was taken into the services, despite the fact that he has a wooden or artificial leg. Upon making application for treatment for his leg he was denied such treatment, and so far as I know has been denied treatment for that part of his leg ever since. He belongs to the signal corps of the active service forces.

He told me that the doctors knew he had a wooden leg, because that fact was stated on his papers, and that there was nothing hidden about the fact that he had an artificial leg. When he outlined the case to me I agreed with him that if they took a man into the active service, knowing he had a wooden leg, they had every right to attend to his request. That man has been fighting for special treatment for that part of the leg remaining. I understand the leg was lost while he was occupied in industrial life before entering the forces. I am wondering, and other people are wondering why a man of that class would be accepted into the services. He gave me his name and regimental number.

Mr. RALSTON: I am wondering that, too.

Mr. REID: I am told he was in the signal corps.

Mr. MacNICOL: Was he medically examined?