

Mr. HOMUTH: But not in the fighting forces.

Mr. RALSTON: He cannot be sent overseas until he is nineteen.

Mr. WHITE: A boy would need certain educational qualifications to go into a trade.

Mr. RALSTON: He would not require any educational advantages which the ordinary boy of sixteen or seventeen would not normally have, just the ordinary school education.

Mr. WHITE: I hope the minister will consider that point because I feel that the regulations work a decided hardship on these young boys.

Some days ago when the minister was speaking about the reserve force units he promised to give a break-down of the number of men in the reserve, which he put at somewhere around 70,000. I asked for a break-down of these men into machine gun, rifle, artillery and other units. The break-down has not yet been given; but in the blue book of April of this year the number in the reserve forces is given at roughly 140,000 men. I have also a return brought down by the Minister of National Defence dated April 20, which I shall have to use because the break-down has not been given, which sets out the expenditure on the reserve forces for 1940-41 and 1941-42. It shows pay and allowances for the reserve army in 1940-41 at roughly \$4,200,000, and for 1941-42, at \$2,400,000, or just about one-half the amount spent in the previous year. This would indicate that there was just about one-half the number in the reserve army in 1941-42 as in 1940-41.

A day or so ago the hon. member for Winnipeg South (Mr. Mutch) brought to the attention of the minister the fact that non-commissioned officers had to revert to the rank of private before proceeding overseas on draft. I realize, of course, that there are two sides to the picture, that the officer commanding the unit in England probably wants to promote his own men who have served in the ranks. On the other hand, these non-commissioned officers have served in Canada for many months and have qualified, and naturally they do not wish to lose the increased pay which they receive as non-commissioned officers. I hope, before the committee rises, the minister will make some announcement as to whether they must continue to revert to the rank of private before proceeding overseas.

A few days ago the question of the educational standard required for obtaining a commission came up, and the minister stated that the recognized standard was junior matriculation. At that time I rather took

from the minister's remarks that he thought I was objecting that people with educational qualifications below this standard had received commissions. I was endeavouring to point out just the opposite, that there to-day are hundreds of deserving men and non-commissioned officers who are quite capable of obtaining a commission who do not possess the educational standard of junior matriculation. In my unit there are two men who never attended high school, but who went over to England in 1939 as sergeants, and after about a year in England were recommended for a commission. They qualified at one of the schools in England and turned out to be two of the best officers in the unit. One of these men has been returned to Canada and is now giving instruction in the most advanced type of 1942 training. There must be hundreds of others in the same position. Would the minister tell the committee whether arrangements have been made whereby the standard of junior matriculation will not be set up to bar men and non-commissioned officers who have the other qualifications necessary to become officers?

Just before the house adjourned for the Easter recess the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Edwards) referred to the condition of many recruiting offices. I do not want to mention any particular recruiting offices, but I should like to join with the hon. member for Calgary West in what he said with regard to their general condition.

Mr. RALSTON: This situation has been corrected. It has been changed altogether.

Mr. WHITE: I was going to say that some of these recruiting offices are in a very dirty condition. I would also point out that many recruits are not taken into the army on the day they apply to enlist. To tell a recruit, "come back to-morrow", or "come back this afternoon", is wrong. If you talk to many of these recruits you will find that few of them have money; if they have, it is very little, and the matter of two or three extra meals or a night's lodging is of considerable importance. Nothing is more discouraging to a young boy who has the courage and determination to want to enlist than to be told by an orderly room sergeant, perhaps in a gruff and abrupt manner, "you will have to come back to-morrow; the medical officer cannot take anybody else to-day". I am very glad to hear the minister say that this condition has been remedied.

A few days ago, when I asked the minister about the syllabus used at Camp Borden, he agreed to put it on *Hansard*, and it is printed on page 1891. I am not complaining about