

War Service Grants

brought in a report; and, as I say, it is hoped to study that report at the next meeting of the committee.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I want to take exception to that.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. QUELCH: Soldiers who are brought back wounded and who enter hospital come under the Department of Veterans Affairs, and I wish to know whether such men will be awarded gratuity up to March 31, 1946. I should like to quote from page 199 of the minutes of proceedings of the special committee, as follows:

Mr. Woods: Mr. Chairman, I have under consideration at the present time an amendment to our recent regulations that would enable us to carry that man on in hospital up to the deadline of March 31, 1946, for gratuity. We have under consideration an amendment.

I understand that certain difficulties have arisen and I was wondering what the final decision might be.

Mr. TUCKER: The matter is under consideration and may actually have been passed. At any rate it is close to being dealt with.

Section agreed to.

Section 5 agreed to.

On section 6—Manner of payment of gratuity.

Mr. WRIGHT: It was agreed in the committee that the payment of gratuities and reestablishments grants should be based on the number of months served in the forces. There had to be twelve months service in Canada to become eligible under the Veterans Land Act for settlement on the land. We agreed to that in committee, but I have since been informed that there are certain men who were in the forces and who were sent by the authorities to serve in other establishments. For instance, there were men who were sent to serve in civilian air training schools. They might serve there for eight or nine months or a year and then be recalled into the air service. The time spent in the air training school does not count in the computation of points for discharge. These men find they have a small number of points for discharge and are being held in the air force, while

[Mr. Tucker.]

other men, who continued in the force, are getting their discharges. It seems to me that these men have a reasonable kick in not being allowed points for discharge for their service in the air school, especially when they were sent there by the authorities. I wanted to bring this matter to the minister's attention so that it might receive consideration, because there are a number of men in this category.

Section agreed to.

On section 7—Reestablishment credit.

Mr. QUELCH: As the committee knows, if a veteran elects to take the benefits under the Veterans Land Act he is debarred from receiving a reestablishment credit, but under this section provision is made for the veteran still getting a reestablishment credit, provided that he only comes under section 13 of the act. Where a veteran has come under section 13 of the Veterans Land Act and is under the impression that he would not be able to obtain a reestablishment credit, will he be notified by the Department of Veterans Affairs that he is eligible.

Mr. TUCKER: Yes, I think I can assure my hon. friend that that will be done.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—Conditions of availability of reestablishment credit.

Section agreed to.

Sections 9 and 10 agreed to.

On section 11—Exceptions to entitlement.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think the question ought to be asked once more, whether or not the war gratuity was conceived of and introduced as a reward for services. Would the minister care to tell us whether that was the object?

Mr. MACKENZIE: With the consent of my hon. friend I would quote from memory what the Prime Minister said last year in this house when he referred to the war service grants as being an expression of the nation's gratitude for services rendered. In my mind there is a difference between a war service grant and a reestablishment credit. The latter is for a period of ten years and is bound up with the reestablishment of the ex-service men and the building up of the national economy, the two things really being