

you go ahead, tear off your slip and declare the item carried. That has been done half a dozen times in the last hour or so.

Mr. POWER: This item happens to be in the supplementary estimates. I called the number and said it was in the supplementary estimates; I am sorry if my hon. friend did not hear me.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not think we should be so hasty that members of the committee cannot follow what is being done.

Mr. POWER: It is item No. 557, on page 6 of the supplementary estimates.

Mr. MacNEIL: Has there been any change in the estimate of the number likely to benefit under this legislation?

Mr. POWER: No. When the bill was being discussed in the house it was estimated that there would be approximately five thousand who would come under the war veterans' allowance during the course of this year and that the cost would be something like \$2,100,000. Since they will not all come on at once, however, it is likely that the cost this year will be about \$1,400,000.

Mr. MacNEIL: Has any step been taken to review, automatically, the files of those who formerly applied for war veterans' allowance and who were refused on the ground that they were not permanently unemployable? A number of men keep writing me stating that they have applied and been rejected. Apparently their files have not been reviewed, and they are at a loss how to proceed. In spite of the excellent work that has been done by the board in distributing information on the subject, there is still some uncertainty. Could there not be some automatic review of applications formerly rejected before the act was amended?

Mr. POWER: I think for the moment the board will have all it can do to deal with the applications which have come before it since the amendment was passed.

Item agreed to.

Pensions branch—Pensions branch administration—further amount required, \$30,240.

Mr. GREEN: What is the reason for this vote?

Mr. POWER: This is also in connection with the war veterans' allowance. Under the set-up of our estimates the staff for the war veterans' allowance outside Ottawa is supplied by the Department of Pensions, and this provides for a number of reviewers, stenographers, investigators and so on. The same applies to the next item; only those will be directly

under the control of the board here in Ottawa, looking after the applications, which are coming in very rapidly.

Mr. GREEN: I see there is quite a large sum for temporary assistance. What is the nature of that?

Mr. POWER: There are two members of the board at \$6,000 each, and then there is the temporary assistance. A very large portion of the staff will be temporary, to deal with the rush we are having at the present time. I may say that in Toronto since April we have had a thousand applications filed, and we need this staff in the worst way possible, as soon as we can get it, to deal with them.

Mr. GREEN: They are all being taken on through the civil service commission?

Mr. POWER: Oh, yes.

Mr. MacNEIL: Under this item could I urge the minister to introduce a bill this session amending the Pension Act? There are certain matters which urgently require consideration, and I think it would be advisable to have them cleaned up as quickly as possible. I refer particularly to the deadline; to some anomaly that exists in regard to the position of widows who were married between 1931 and 1933, and to section 77 of the act.

Mr. POWER: The matter is still under consideration; but I want to be quite frank with my hon. friend, and I must say I hardly think it will be possible to introduce any new pension legislation this year, though the government has not definitely come to any conclusion in the matter. A decision will be reached within a few days.

Item agreed to.

War veterans' allowance board—further amount required, \$73,200.

Mr. GREEN: The sum of \$45,000 is to be paid to the soldier settlement board for investigation. What is that for?

Mr. POWER: Investigation in rural districts is and has always been undertaken by the soldier settlement board. So far that board have been doing this work without charge, but they have found that they have a lot of work to do in connection with the matter, as well as in connection with several other pieces of legislation—I believe the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act and the Farm Loan Board are included—so they have asked that this department pay its share for the work being done.

Mr. GREEN: The administration expenses here in connection with the supplementary