

Now we will take up consideration of Bill 182, an Act to amend the Veterans Benefit Act, 1951.

Have you anything to say on that, General?

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, as the House was informed at the resolution stage, the proposal is to merely extend the life of the present Act for a further year. It would expire on the last day of this session, otherwise. The members of the committee perhaps might be interested to hear some statistics in regard to the numbers who served in the Korean theatre of operations and the benefits which have been paid out under the Act.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Yes, by all means.

The WITNESS: In accordance with the statement which was made by Mr. Claxton in the House, and is in *Hansard* under date of April 3, 1952, 14,183 persons have served, in all services, in the Far East. Of this, up to the 3rd of June, 127 were killed, 21 died of wounds, 600 were wounded and there were 69 other casualties, of which only 1 is a prisoner of war, 7 missing, a total of 817 casualties. Up to the 14th of June, the number of war service gratuities paid is 1,092, the average amount being \$161.43. Up to the same date 944 re-establishment credit accounts have been set up, the average credit being \$129.32. There have been only 4 applications for university training, and the applicants are now in training, whereas there have been 25 applications for vocational training. 15 are in training and 7 have been approved but have not commenced yet, and 3 have completed training, a total of 25, 21 veterans have applied under the Veterans Land Act: 6 of them have qualified and 15 are still under consideration. The Department of Veterans Affairs has made contributions to the unemployment insurance benefits of veterans in 3,281 cases. Then there have been 75 disability pensions granted and 45 pensions to dependents. In addition, 21 gratuities for disabilities less than 5 per cent have been paid. Further than that, hospitalization in the same classes that were used after World War II has been given in varying numbers to an average of around 50 patients at any one time. It will be noted that comparatively few eligible veterans have applied for training benefits or have applied under the Veterans Land Act. That is because the great majority of those who were in the theatre of operations were serving on engagements with the regular forces or have subsequently re-engaged with them. These men in the great majority of cases will be taking their benefits in the form of re-establishment credits. While in World War II, as members of the committee will recall, no gratuities were paid, except when the man was discharged from the forces, until after hostilities had ceased, a decision has recently been taken to pay gratuities to members of the forces who are still serving in the regular forces after they have returned from the theatre. It is probable that a similar decision with regard to the payment of re-establishment credits will be reached shortly.

Another matter which may be of interest is that an order in council dated June 3, 1952 provides for a civilian clothing allowance of \$100 for those who served in the Special Force and are discharged or released from the services, and such veterans may also be paid rehabilitation grants of one month's pay, and marriage allowance. In other words, the same provision regarding clothing and marriage allowance as in the case of those who have served six months in World War II.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Mr. Chairman, could we have an explanation as to the reason why we are extending the life only one year?

The WITNESS: It is hoped that there will be some finality to this next year. You will recall that during World War II, up to 1946, all rehabilitation benefits were governed pretty well by orders in council under the War Measures Act, which we do not have at the present time. Essentially the Veterans Benefit Act gives authority to carry on the bulk of the benefits which I have described,