

believe the last report I saw stated that from sixty to seventy thousand had been released from the army.

Mr. RALSTON: That is about right.

Mr. MacNICOL: It is away up high, anyway; and I have been wondering how in the world such a large number of men, many of whom must at the time of enlistment have been unfit, got into the army. I had occasion to see three young men who had been called into the army recently, and from my survey of them I made up my mind that "the halt, the maimed and the blind" as well as the fit are now being called in.

Mr. RALSTON: The what?

Mr. MacNICOL: The halt, the maimed and the blind are being called into the army.

Mr. RALSTON: I was just saying the other way about. I would say it was the other way about. The complaint is that we are too choosy in rejecting men.

Mr. MacNICOL: I will give a description of these three cases. One was a man of thirty-eight years of age, I believe, who had flat feet. I have known him for many years, and so far as I have known he has been quite unfit for army work. I believe that when he was first called he was placed in category C2. I thought that was a low category.

Mr. RALSTON: Did he have special training for any trade?

Mr. MacNICOL: No. He and his mother have been operating a clothes cleaning and pressing business for many years. If he has to close up the store, I do not know what the mother will do. Looking him over, I wondered how he got through any medical board. Another young man I know of has had a cracked kneecap, I was told, for a long time. He cannot walk a block without having to sit down. He is not in any shape to march, and after he was put into the army I said to him, "What are you doing?" He replied, "I am in one of the hospitals and my duty is to direct people where to go." Well, a fourteen year old girl could do that. This man, I suggest, might have been left at home. His father is about eighty, and they have been operating a butcher shop and food store for the last thirty-seven years, but though he is the only one who can help his father he has been called into the army. And, as I was told, he has a cracked knee cap. I am wondering if the medical men are strict enough in their examinations. The minister says that the complaint is that the inspection is too rigid, but these two cases I have mentioned—I will not discuss the third—would seem to indicate that

the examination is not strict enough. How in the world was the first man passed when he was put into category C2 the first time? I am only reporting what I have been told.

Mr. RALSTON: Has my hon. friend the name?

Mr. MacNICOL: Yes, I will give it privately. I should like the minister to give some reasonable excuse for the enlistment in regard to some 60,000 or 70,000 men on whom the government has spent a great deal of money, maybe millions in the aggregate, who are now discharged from the army before taking part in the war at all. Many of them came back from England. I know a number myself, and discussing the matter with them I have been told that their medical inspection was more or less a joke. I should like someone to defend the physical examination of these men.

Mr. GILLIS: There are a few questions I wish to ask the minister. I desire to get some information with regard to the machinery of the dependents' board of trustees. What does it consist of in the different provinces? How many are there on the committees functioning in the different provinces? If the minister has given that information, I shall be able to get it.

Mr. RALSTON: In reference to the questions raised by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Noseworthy) with regard to doctors, he has spoken of a particular community which is sorely in need of medical assistance and, second, he states that he has had conversations with men in and out of the service who think the doctors are not employed to the best advantage. He has not made that as a general statement, but he did say, I understood, that there are medical men who are employed where men without medical qualifications could be used. That could only occur at headquarters, because we must have a medical doctor with the unit. I have taken this matter up with the medical people so far as the establishments are concerned; that is to say, how many doctors should we have in connection with a certain formation or unit. They say that we have to have the same number of doctors as the British have, inasmuch as we shall be associated with them, and approximately the same number as the United States. It is difficult to cut down the establishment of doctors in field units or in general hospitals, and by field units I mean regimental or combatant units. In the second place there are the field ambulances, casualty clearing stations, general hospitals behind and base hospitals which must be taken care of. You cannot cut these down. The only other place where my hon. friend seems to think there is a misuse of medical