

Mr. RALSTON: The first selection was made here of the dependents' board of trustees. We endeavoured to get representation through the appointment of people who were experienced in welfare work, who were well known in the community, and who it was thought would command not only the respect but the confidence of those who would be subject to their administration. We endeavoured to get responsible people.

Mr. BENICE: Was it done by the dependents' allowance board?

Mr. RALSTON: No, the Department of National Defence and the Department of Finance, but mostly the former, had to take the responsibility for the selection of the dependents' board of trustees in the first instance. The first chairman of the dependents' board of trustees was Doctor George M. Weir, a former minister of public welfare of British Columbia; he went across Canada and interviewed those who were interested in welfare matters in the different centres and got together a local committee to deal with the situation in a particular locality. That is, as to the board itself. On the board there is also a representative of the Canadian Legion; there is a representative of the Department of Pensions and National Health or of soldier settlement, and the same representative qualification holds true with regard to the committees themselves. These committees were selected largely by the chairman. I do not think the committees were all completed when Doctor Weir resigned to resume his previous duties, and Mr. Pembroke took over as chairman and completed the organization of the committees, for the most part as they stand to-day. There is a paid secretary and clerical staff in each committee. These are the only people who are paid in connection with local operations, and there are of course technical and clerical staffs at headquarters.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): How were the appointments made? I am thinking about the one in military district No. 7, New Brunswick.

Mr. RALSTON: Is not that the legion representative?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I cannot remember.

Mr. RALSTON: Is that not Major Winslow?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Is he the head?

Mr. RALSTON: No; he is the legion representative on the board.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Who was the chairman and who was the secretary?

Mr. RALSTON: Where?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): In New Brunswick.

Mr. RALSTON: Mr. Gerald Lawson of the Bank of Montreal in Saint John is chairman of the local committee.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): First class.

Mr. RALSTON: With regard to medical categories, my hon. friend asked whether the requirements in category A have been reduced. There was a reduction last year. I filed for the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Bruce) a return showing a slight deduction in regard to the qualification for eyes and ears.

Mr. BENICE: Has there been any reduction since that time?

Mr. RALSTON: I do not think so. This is the first time this has been spoken of although it has been under consideration. A system is being inaugurated with regard to the categorization of recruits which I would think would have the effect that the hon. member is speaking of, namely, of the army being able to utilize perhaps more of those who have been heretofore rejected on account of category. The categories have been fairly rigid and there are cases, as hon. members know, in which a man is rejected for having, say, two fingers off or something of that kind, which really does not interfere with his soldiering ability but at the same time puts him in a category which is not A. A system has been devised—I think it is called the "Pulhems" system—whereby the categorization depends upon the particular function which is affected by the defect or impairment; certain defects, even though they might put a man in a different category under the present system, would not put him in a low category so far as qualification as a soldier is concerned.

Mr. BENICE: For example, a man with deficient eyesight but with complete correction might be taken on in some clerical capacity?

Mr. RALSTON: My only answer to that would be that certainly I should think so. The director-general of medical services has just returned from overseas, where he discussed this whole question with the army commander and the corps commanders at Canadian headquarters, and this system is being adopted there as well.

With regard to my hon. friend's question about taking in more C category men, the