

Supply—Labour

persons already immigrated to Canada; administrative expenses connected therewith and to provide for expenditures under agreements with the provinces authorized by the governor in council, \$993,832.

Mrs. Fairclough: Here again we have a 10 per cent decrease. Will the minister explain?

Mr. Gregg: This provides for expenses incurred for moving workers in Canada.

Mrs. Fairclough: Yes.

Mr. Gregg: The reason is that under the later planned arrangements for workers coming into Canada, more workers are coming in during the open seasons. Consequently our hostels are not as greatly used while waiting for them to go out to work. I should say that the saving there comes about by a great improvement in the routing of incoming workers to their places of work after they arrive in Canada.

Mr. Catherwood: Does the minister not feel that the matter of farm labour is just as important as in previous years?

Mr. Gregg: Just as important, and the annual conferences with the provincial departments are being held as usual.

Item agreed to.

196. To provide for payments to implement a program for the rehabilitation of disabled persons, in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the governor in council, and administrative expenses connected therewith, \$195,333.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, the amount unused here would indicate a lack of requirements, I would think. I wonder if the minister would explain item 20 on page 250, "Appropriation not required for 1953-54." It is in the middle of the page—

Vocational training for discharged members of Canada's armed forces, etc.

Has this particular requirement lapsed?

Mr. Gregg: It has not lapsed, Mr. Chairman. The rehabilitation of veterans of the second world war, as far as our department is concerned, is practically nil. At that time the rehabilitation facilities in which we co-operated had not started for veterans from Korea. That will probably be moved into this year.

Item agreed to.

B—Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940—

197. Administration, including expenditures incurred in connection with the activities of the national employment service as delegated by the Minister of Labour in accordance with section 88 of the act, \$25,895,106.

Mr. Knowles: May we assume, as I believe we can, from what the minister said in the

[Mr. Gregg.]

course of his discussion of the first item, that in his assurance that all suggestions made tonight would be studied he includes suggestions made with respect to unemployment insurance?

Mr. Gregg: Most certainly, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Fairclough: I wonder if the minister will say why we may expect an increase of one-third in the casual employees? If the minister will refer to page 253 he will find an increase from \$927,000 to \$1,300,000.

Mr. Gregg: Mr. Chairman, as my hon. friend knows, during our seasonal unemployment period in the wintertime the work in our local offices goes up very rapidly. If we were to keep permanent employees sufficient to cope with that work in the winter we would have too many in the summer. We have been adopting more and more a policy of taking on casual employees in the wintertime and, as a bit of an experiment to help solve the older worker problem, older clerical workers who are qualified for that work where appropriate are being called in to help with the work in the wintertime. That is the reason for the increase in casual employees.

Mrs. Fairclough: This increase in casual employees does not seem to be reflected in any other part of the estimates, in a lessening of staff or in any other regard.

Mr. Gregg: No, but it has made it possible to keep from increasing the permanent staff which we would have had to do otherwise.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

Field and inspectional service, Canada—

61. Operation and maintenance, including \$10,000 for grants to immigrant welfare organizations, \$5,204,217.

The Chairman: The general discussion on this department has taken place.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Pensions and other benefits—

677. To authorize the governor in council to regard the election to count prior service for the purposes of the Civil Service Superannuation Act, made by the public curator of the province of Quebec on behalf of Georges Rene Boivin, a contributor, as a valid election pursuant to section 5 of that act, \$1.

Mr. Green: Can the Minister of National Defence explain this item?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Chairman, this point is rather technical and will require some explanation. Mr. Georges Rene Boivin, a veteran of world war I with "on active service" status, was