

about June, and perhaps that was a little late in the season for men to get this probational training work, but we consider it has been highly successful. It has proved very successful as a means of placing a large number of men, and we intend to press it this year.

Mr. BROOKS: Is there any age limit for probational training?

Mr. POWER: No.

Mr. MacNEIL: What are the regulations as to eligibility for probational training?

Mr. POWER: There must be service in a theatre of war, and the assurance that a man has a chance of getting a job when the probational training is finished.

Mr. MacNEIL: Is it necessary to have an agreement with a prospective employer?

Mr. POWER: We originally began with the idea that we could get a written agreement, but that regulation had to be relaxed to some extent as we went along. But it is really the work of the honorary committees, and they have been remarkably successful. The three qualifications for eligibility are, that he served during the war in a theatre of actual war, provided (a) that he is registered for employment with the employment service of Canada and/or the veterans' assistance commission; (b) that he is employable, and (c) that he requires a period of probational training to fit him for employment with the industry or firm.

Mr. MacNEIL: I agree that this scheme has been eminently successful. I think it is one of the finest schemes that has been evolved for some time. My observation of the cases which have come under my attention is that it has provided not only training but the most satisfactory approach possible to permanent employment for many men. For that reason I was hoping the minister would increase the appropriation or that the scope of this activity might be widened as far as possible. The results achieved this past year amply justify an extension of this activity.

Mr. POWER: We consider that this appropriation is ample to take care of all who will apply. That is the only reason we did not increase it.

Mr. GREEN: How has the minister dealt with the two recommendations from the veterans' assistance commission; one suggesting that the veteran might be given this training even if he had no prospective employer in sight, if the department was satisfied that such training would more readily fit him for suitable employment; and the other being that the department could pay tuition fees in

[Mr. Power.]

a worthy case to help the man get the training, for example, for a civil service examination?

Mr. POWER: With respect to tuition. I am informed that we had three cases in which there was a definite undertaking that if the man underwent certain training he would get a job. One was at the Kemptville dairy school in Ontario; another was at Winnipeg, in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway shops, with special training on air conditioning, and the other was at Hamilton, with an airplane manufacturer. And they got the work.

Mr. GREEN: And the department is willing to give them that sort of help?

Mr. POWER: It never was intended either by the House of Commons or by the department, or, I think, by the commission, that this money would be employed only for putting men in an assured job. Short of that we can do pretty nearly anything.

Mr. GREEN: I believe the Canadian legion at their dominion convention suggested that the minister should also make eligible those men who served only in England but who enlisted under the age of twenty-one years. In other words, they are a young group of returned men. Has anything been done about that?

Mr. POWER: No.

Item agreed to.

Unemployment assistance, \$2,350,000.

Mr. REID: I wish to discuss the condition of a class of ex-service men who until now have been only very briefly mentioned in this house. I refer to that class known as ex-imperials. In doing so I am not unmindful of the plight of many Canadian ex-service men and I realize that our first consideration is for them. But we have now in Canada some 200,000 ex-imperials who, I believe, merit greater consideration than they are receiving. In British Columbia it is estimated that there are at least 50,000 ex-imperials. Perhaps it would be better for me to quote one or two extracts from the brief which was drawn up by them and which, I fancy, explains their condition and the situation in which they find themselves to-day far better than I can. Dealing first with hospitals they say:

In Great Britain all are within easy reach of military hospitals, and in the case of a veteran who is making first application the documents have to be sent for from London, causing considerable delay; and then there is also postal delay in Canada itself. Unlike the Canadian veteran, the British veteran may see his documents which are in the possession of