

deprived of their out of work benefits. We strongly urge that this clause be rescinded as these benefits were granted to veterans for service in the armed forces of their country and in no way should be invalidated by civilian qualifications. Urging an early reply.

Harold Keeton, chairman,
Hamilton Strikers Veterans Committee

It was my understanding as a member of the veterans affairs committee that this privilege was to give the veterans relief for a certain period until they got positions suitable to their requirements, and it ended there as far as any special privileges were concerned. I should like to know from the minister if that is a correct interpretation of the clause.

Mr. MITCHELL: Of course there is the basic law, in the Unemployment Insurance Act, that when persons are on strike they cannot receive unemployment insurance benefits. It is not a question of benefits or anything like that; it is a question of the law as it is.

Mr. MacINNIS: I understand that the chairman of the unemployment insurance commission has resigned, and I should like to know if a chairman has been appointed in his place to complete the commission. Last year when we were discussing the minister's estimates we had a chairman but no commissioners. This year we have commissioners but no chairman.

Mr. GRAYDON: Time to get together.

Mr. MacINNIS: So I suppose when we get a chairman we shall be again without commissioners. Someone must be administering the Unemployment Insurance Act for whom in the act no provision is made. I would like to have a word from the minister as to how it is done.

Mr. MITCHELL: There is a chairman of the unemployment insurance commission. He does not retire until September 30, and my hon. friend can rest assured that on the first day of October there will be a new chairman in his stead.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is the minister in a position to indicate who the new chairman is? I understand the minister has the choice made and the situation is well in hand. He might tell parliament what the situation is.

Mr. MITCHELL: I am afraid I cannot do that. The announcement will be made in due course. I may say, however, that there have been more applications for that chairmanship than there have been for senatorships. If the hon. gentleman were on this side of the house he would realize the trials and tribulations that beset us here.

Mr. GRAYDON: I take it the new chairman is not sitting far from the minister now.

Item agreed to.

Demobilization and reconversion—

531. Dispersal, maintenance and removal of Japanese nationals and other persons of the Japanese race, \$4,000,000.

Mr. REID: I do not rise to bring up any controversial question, but I would ask the minister to give us some information about the dispersal of Japanese at the present time throughout Canada. Apart from the differing views we have, I think all are agreed that a dispersal programme is desirable in each province. I should like to know what the figures are and whether representations have been received from any of the provincial governments protesting against Japanese remaining within its borders, or otherwise.

Mr. MITCHELL: First of all, the policy has been to return to Japan those who have voluntarily agreed to go. The other basic policy is one of dispersal of all Japanese throughout Canada. The figures are these:

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| British Columbia, Department of Labour Settlement | 3,080 |
| Elsewhere in the province | 5,572 |
| | 8,652 |
| Alberta | 4,172 |
| Saskatchewan | 454 |
| Manitoba | 1,290 |
| Ontario | 5,579 |
| Quebec | 1,017 |
| Nova Scotia | 1 |
| New Brunswick | 10 |
| Newfoundland and Northwest Territories | 30 |
| Prince Edward Island | 6 |

There have been repatriated to Japan 3,152. There are approximately only 600 who have so far asked to be returned to Japan, and we are awaiting available shipping to take them there. We have received a letter recently from the Minister of Labour of Saskatchewan, indicating that about 1,000 are being located in camp at Moose Jaw. We have never had that number in Saskatchewan. The number in Moose Jaw is between 300 and 400. He was alarmed at the possible impact of the unemployment situation upon the province by the location in that province of a large number such as he suggested to me in his letter.

Mr. MacINNIS: The matter of dispersal is an important one, and everyone who wishes to see this very difficult problem solved hopes that the dispersal policy, which is the considered policy of the government, will be carried out as expeditiously and as fairly as possible. There are several difficulties, one of them arises out of the restrictions on travel