

Pension Act

the forces and who enlisted in other forces, 331. The grand total is 18,109. The Minister of Pensions and National Health gave all those figures and classified them, showing the period of time they had been in the service before they were discharged. I said that nearly 3,400 had been in the service for less than ninety days—

Mr. GREEN: Can we get the figures for the air force and navy at eight o'clock?

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): In reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Mackenzie before recess with regard to training courses, I have at present only partial information but will get some further information later on. I am informed by the Department of Labour that applications are received by principals of technical schools as representing the provincial governments. Requests for reports showing the number of returned soldiers accepted for training have been made to all provinces. Some provinces have not shown this fact in the reports received. A figure taken out by the youth training administration showed forty-two ex-soldiers among the 6,000 men now in training schools. This is known to be quite incomplete. The veterans' welfare division had one report from the Edmonton veterans' assistance committee that twelve men had been placed in courses.

The veterans' welfare division has instructed all districts and honorary committees to urge men of appropriate types to apply for courses, but has no returns to show the number applying and the number accepted.

Then the hon. member for Vancouver South asked a question with reference to those medically unfit. I gave those figures earlier in the afternoon. For the army the total number of applications for enlistment from September 1, 1939, to September 30, 1940, was 192,415, of whom 28,316 were rejected as permanently unfit and 7,949 rejected as temporarily unfit.

Mr. GREEN: That is, they were not taken into the army at all?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): That is right. The combined figures represent a rate of 188.47 per thousand, or 18.8 per cent. Subsequently to attestation 3,492 were rejected; that is up to June 1, 1940. This represented 1.2 per cent of the whole.

[Mr. Ralston.]

Mr. GREEN: By rejection, does the minister mean that they were discharged after they had been taken into the army?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Yes, as medically unfit, this small number, 3,492.

The air force took twenty recruiting centres to get the percentage. From August 1 to September 30, 1940, the total examined was 21,311, of whom 5,244 were rejected, or 24.6 per cent.

With regard to the navy I gave some figures earlier in the day. Their figures are concerned with rejections after the men were enlisted. For the period September 1, 1939, to September 30, 1940, thirteen months, the total number discharged as medically unfit was 149, or 12.4 per thousand, of a total strength of 11,973.

I have here two or three tables which show the disabilities—

Mr. GREEN: Before the minister goes on to that, I asked for the number that had been discharged from the navy and the number discharged from the air force. Can he give those figures?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I do not have them.

Mr. GREEN: Is it not possible to get those figures?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Oh, yes, later on. I shall be glad to ask my colleague for them.

Then it might be of interest to show the various disabilities for which they were discharged.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Before the minister goes into that, if he has not already done so would he be good enough to give the number discharged after having been taken to England?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I gave those figures earlier in the afternoon. There were 909 altogether.

Mr. BROOKS: Up to what date?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): That was up until last week.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That would be what—less than 2 per cent of those who went overseas?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I should like to place these tables on *Hansard*.