

mittee dealing with all three services, headed by an eminent Toronto gentleman, a member of the faculty of the university of Toronto.

Mr. JACKMAN: How long has that joint committee been in operation?

Mr. RALSTON: A year anyway; perhaps longer than that. Each service has to do with the actual serving of its own food. What was the other question?

Mr. JACKMAN: Is there a uniform diet for the men in the army, and for the air force in Canada?

Mr. RALSTON: They have a uniform diet, but there are options on the diet. Some units may take a different option from others.

Mr. JACKMAN: With regard to the messing officers whom the minister mentioned, are these men qualified medical practitioners, or are they drawn from the quartermaster's department? Further, does the army employ women in connection with the preparation of food or as dietitians at the various army depots?

Mr. RALSTON: The messing officers are not medical officers, nor are they from the quartermaster's department. Generally, they are from the unit and are given special training as arranged by Colonel Webb and his messing branch. With regard to the preparation of food by women, in some camps women do prepare food and in others they do not. I have explained that the supply of C.W.A.C. personnel is not great enough to supply all our needs in that respect. Generally speaking, women in hospitals do prepare the food and there are professional women dietitians as well.

Mr. JACKMAN: My other question is whether the food ration for our troops in Canada is greater than that sufficient adequately to maintain the fighting strength of our troops in Great Britain?

Mr. RALSTON: The ration overseas is the ration which conforms with British standards, and is regarded as quite adequate to maintain the fighting standards of troops overseas.

Mr. JACKMAN: Is the ration in Canada a greater or lesser amount?

Mr. RALSTON: As my hon. friend knows, I think the ration in Canada is greater in some instances.

Mr. McCANN: It would be too bad if the impression were to go out to the people of Canada that fifteen per cent of those who come up for medical examination are rejected on the ground of mental and nervous conditions. I suggest that the implication and the

[Mr. Ralston.]

significance of such a statement would cause a great deal of concern in the minds of our people. I suggest further that the minister use the term "emotional instability," which is used under the Pulhems system. This term conveys an entirely different impression from saying that these people are mentally unsound or suffering from a nervous condition.

Mr. RALSTON: I must say I never liked the term because "emotional instability" did not seem to convey anything. However, I certainly accept the correction, and shall be glad to use it.

Mr. McCANN: The other term is too strong.

Mr. RALSTON: If permitted, I would insert the term in the record, in place of the other one.

Mr. GRAYDON: It sounds like a legal term.

Mr. McCANN: That is one of the classifications under the new system.

Mr. RALSTON: As my hon. friend is aware, reference to a mental condition includes not only a nervous condition but also low mentality.

Mr. McCANN: On many occasions I have been asked about the number of men being returned from England, and why there are so many with a mental condition. The newspapers have stated on occasions that so many men have been returned on account of mental condition. Those men may be emotionally unstable, but that is an entirely different condition from what is implied in the general understanding of a mental condition.

Mr. RALSTON: We will use the term "emotional instability," then.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): We have been told the percentage of men rejected upon application for enlistment. Further, we are told there have been about 100,000 discharges from the army, of which number about 7,000 have been returned. Could the minister give the percentage of the 100,000 who have been discharged on account of either physical defects or emotional instability? I have always pointed out that this is a very large percentage of waste. The minister may be in a position to tell us the cause for this tremendous number of discharges of men who have had some training in the armed forces.

Mr. RALSTON: The director-general of medical services tells me that, to be entirely accurate in connection with cases of nervous or mental disability, one ought not to use the