

1940, have not been made liable for service in Canada for the duration if they have been attending parades of their reserve units.

I understand—the minister may correct me—that this position is still recognized; and if this excuse still obtains, the position should be changed. It is not good enough.

2. As I understand it, the exemption and postponement provisions of regulation 17, headed "University and College Students," enables students attending a university Canadian officers' training corps to avoid full-time compulsory military service in Canada. In fact, subsection 4 of regulation 17 goes so far as to give complete exemption from service to a student who is qualified by training in this corps to be a commissioned officer in the naval, military or air forces of Canada; that is, unless he has agreed to go on active service in consideration for the special training he has received at the country's expense. It is represented that young men are now taking these courses at the expense of the public without undertaking to serve Canada either here or anywhere the authorities may need them. That is the allegation. That would seem to me to be a wrong position, and if it is the situation it should be corrected. I want to follow that a little further.

In addition, it is represented that the existing regulations permit a partial student in a special course—after all, that may be only colour—or a post-graduate student in a profession not connected with any war activities to be taken on the strength of a university officers' training corps and claim similar exemption privileges. I believe that is true. Why? I ask that question. I suggest that that position is capable of great abuse.

All this, I am told, tends to cause resentment among those called out for the duration who are not able to bring themselves within these special provisions, and it is suggested to me that these rules permit those who are better off financially and who are indifferent to their obligations to escape from doing their duty at this time of national peril. I suggest to the minister, therefore, that the time has passed when this country should go to the expense of further qualifying young men as officers unless they are prepared to join up in the active service forces. This would appear to be just to those in the ranks of the Canadian active army in Canada and abroad which is full of men who have earned the right to be selected and trained for commissioned rank.

It is further suggested that the presence of potential officer material in the ranks of the various training centres would act as a stimulus to the morale of the men.

[Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury).]

I suggest to the minister that regulation 17 can be and has been abused. It should be tightened up, for otherwise, as time goes on, it will be more and more abused. I am not going to fathom the whole depth of the abuses. We can use a little of our imaginations. The appropriate department should take the necessary steps to correct this position and make the thing airtight.

3. I suggest to the minister that it is a recognized principle that in all compulsory war regulations, in so far as humanly possible, everyone affected by an order should be treated alike, and in calling out men for service in the armed forces the medical category into which a trainee is put is a matter of the first-rate importance.

Under regulation 12, which deals with medical examination, the decision is left in the first place to the judgment of a single civilian medical practitioner. We have heard of abuses in certain parts of the country where treatments have been handed out so as to lower the categories of those called up. I do not know whether that is true or not.

Mr. THORSON: Will the hon. gentleman give any instance of that in respect of trainees?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I only know what I read in the papers and what the minister himself and his department must have read. I simply state that there are reports to that effect, but I have no specific instance and I am making no charge.

Mr. THORSON: There is no truth in the report.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I hope there is no truth in the report; but how did it get abroad? The Canadian Press is a reliable organization and it gives credence to this report. I suggest to the minister that where there is smoke there is some fire. I am going to leave it at that. The minister gives the report a flat denial. I wonder just how he knows there is no truth in the report. He cannot possibly know. He can only say what somebody else has told him.

I am dealing with the first examination of a trainee. He goes to a single civilian medical practitioner of his own choice. I am afraid that in certain and, I hope, isolated cases that power has been abused.

Mr. THORSON: If there has been any abuse on the part of doctors, I, as minister of the department, would welcome any particulars. Charges have been made with regard to some practising physicians, and these charges have invariably been investigated. I am glad to be able to say that the

investigations of these charges show that there is no foundation for them and that the physicians of this country are discharging their duties in an honest manner.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The minister can make his statement when I am finished. I am going on with my statement and I do not care what the minister says. This is a charge made by a responsible civilian recruiting agent who had probably more first-hand information than the minister can possibly have.

An hon. MEMBER: Who is he?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have not mentioned his name, but he is well known to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) who could vouch for his character. It is true that if the registrar is not satisfied he may order a reexamination. In the days of the thirty-day training period, the regulation was of no particular consequence because of the short period of training; but now that the period of training and service has been extended for the whole duration of the war, and the men are retained in the service, I suggest to the minister that the regulation puts too much power and responsibility in the hands of one civilian physician. I think it would be a good thing to abolish this practice and appoint medical boards made up of three full-time army officers to decide whether these men fall within categories A, B, C, D or E. That is a specific recommendation I make. I suggest to him that as things get tighter and more men are required, if we are to follow up the present practice of recruiting, they will have to come to that. Why not face the situation now?

Mr. RALSTON: So far as I know, this comes under my colleague's department, but I have inquired about the same thing. I think the only reason given—and here I may be wrong—was that men are located in individual communities all over the place. If they had to come to a training centre and then were turned down and had to go back, it would be a lot of trouble for nothing. This principle was adopted, as is said, under the thirty-day plan.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I do not think there could have been so much objection under the thirty-day plan; but I heard over the radio the other night an announcement made in connection with recruiting for the Royal Canadian Air Force, and it was stated that they were carrying along with them an army doctor. The man is examined right on the spot.

Mr. RALSTON: That is different.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): There may be some difference, but the principle is just the same.

Mr. RALSTON: For the men called up for training you would have to have the boards acting all at once.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I know it is not quite the same. I was suggesting that the theory upon which this was set up no longer serves, and that proper medical boards should be appointed.

Mr. RALSTON: You will find no objection from the army.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You mean to say, if that recommendation is carried out?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The minister ought to back me up. He is not doing it very strongly. Apparently he supports the theory I am advocating.

Mr. RALSTON: It is really a matter of practical ability to carry it out.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I know, but what is money between friends in this war effort? Money does not mean a thing in this war effort. I do not mean to say that we approve extravagant expenditures; we do not. We stand for the principle of equality of service. A man should not be put in a lower category when he ought to be in a higher category. We should see that he is put in the right category.

My fourth question is in reference to the interpretation section, or that part having to do with key men, training period and war industry. I have often wondered how a man between the ages of twenty to twenty-five years could be considered a key man in industry. He may be a key man on the farm, but I doubt very much if any twenty-year-old man can be a key man in industry. I suggest that consideration ought to be given to this. Then "training period" is defined to be such period as may be ordained by such proclamation. That may have been all right when the period was thirty days, or even when it was four months, but it does not fit the facts to-day when we are dealing with service for the duration. I am going to omit some of the comments I had intended to make.

The next definition is that of students. I suggest that a new definition to cover bona fide students is required. In drafting this new definition regard should be had to those students proceeding to take medical degrees as opposed to those taking other professional courses. The announcement of the Minister of National Defence of aid to medical students who will go into the army indicates that the