

National Defence

location in New Brunswick. In these days a large tract is required. Whether the one to which I have referred is large enough or not, I do not know. I hope when the minister speaks he will deal with this question.

I know there are other members who wish to speak, so I shall not take further time. I should have liked to hear the minister give us some information as to what defence we are to have for our different cities, seaports and the like. I have in mind ports such as Saint John, Halifax and Vancouver.

There is another matter connected with defence about which I have spoken in the house on several occasions. I refer to the necessity for the decentralization of industry in Canada. That is a serious problem so far as the defence of this country is concerned. I do not believe it is wise to have our large industries, including munition plants and the like, in large centres where they would be vulnerable to attack.

In closing I hope the minister will give us much more complete information than we have already received.

Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes) so ably pointed out yesterday in the house, I believe that the most effective contribution we can make to the ground forces of NATO are armoured and tactical forces rather than the infantry brigade which is at present stationed in Germany. I believe that when the time comes to rotate our present force the infantry battalions should be replaced by armoured regiments. In this way we shall supply NATO with a force of far greater fire-power and mobility, without increasing by one single man the number of Canadians serving in Europe. In addition our troops will be far better protected in the event of enemy attack.

During the past few days we have heard a great deal about NATO, and the part our forces will play in that organization. I should like to speak tonight about the man around whom our whole effort revolves, and without whom we could have no military effort whatsoever. I refer of course to the private soldier. I believe it is about time we found out how this very important person has been making out since the start of the Korean war, because if he thinks he has been getting a square deal, then the volunteer system will continue to work satisfactorily. If on the other hand he does not, there is the possibility that it may break down.

At the outbreak of the Korean war, when this country found itself so shockingly unprepared, the government pleaded with the

[Mr. Brooks.]

young men of this country to go out and join the Korean brigade. They answered quickly and without reservation. Today many of those young men have completed their eighteen months tour of duty, are being released from the service, and are returning to civilian life. I have talked with a number of them, and I should like to pass along their experiences upon discharge.

When a man is released from the Korean force he receives one week's rehabilitation leave. That means that a private, first class, who is single and who has served in the Korean force for at least one year receives \$28, made up of pay and allowances for one week. Before his discharge he makes out an application for war service gratuity, but he is given no indication as to when he may expect to receive that gratuity, or even if he will ever receive it. He is simply given his \$28, and out he goes.

Now, at the end of world war II, every man or woman in the service was given a clothing allowance of \$100 upon discharge, to enable him or her to buy civilian clothes needed to re-enter civilian life. This allowance was awarded irrespective of length of service or condition of discharge. In other words, every man or woman received this allowance, even though he or she might have been in the service for only a few days, or had had a dishonourable discharge.

Let us contrast that situation with the one today. A man leaving the Korean force is given one week's rehabilitation leave. He leaves the depot in battledress with \$28 in his pocket. He has to find a job, re-equip himself in civilian clothes, and pay board and lodging—all on \$28. He knows that many who received the allowance at the end of world war II never left Canada. He knows that some who received it had been in the service for only a few days, and that a few had received dishonourable discharges. He also knows that it will cost \$150 today, as a minimum, to buy the same amount of clothing as was bought for \$100 in 1945.

What makes the situation a great deal worse is that many of the men who joined the Korean force had to wear their own clothing during the first five or six weeks of their service, because boots and uniforms were not available. Anyone who has ever trained at military camp knows what six weeks' use will do to civilian clothing. These worn-out shoes and clothing are all that many men who have left the Korean force have when they return to civilian life.