

basic policy of demobilization, which is that men who have a point score, who are eligible for discharge, and for whom there is no longer any military necessity, are discharged. However, that policy has never been applied harshly. In a case where a man has indicated he would like to stay in the service for a short time, provided that suitable and essential employment can be found for him, he has been kept in, and someone who perhaps is in a slightly lower priority position is discharged in his place.

As my hon. friend knows, the machinery for discharge, if I may so describe it, is now operating pretty well at capacity, to the extent of about 40,000 a month, and we will continue it.

So far as possible, the policy to which I have referred, of allowing a man who wishes to stay in for a couple of weeks or a month, to stay, will be followed. However, I think I can point out that considerations of that kind have never entered into a large number of cases, and it would be impossible to have it so.

Mr. GREEN: Is there a limit to the length of time a man may stay in the forces?

Mr. ABBOTT: No, no formal time has been fixed. The commanding officers are given discretion, and if a man can be usefully employed he may be left for the time being, provided that he wishes to stay. But that is only in a limited number of cases.

POSTAL SERVICE

SEPARATION NOTICES TO WINNIPEG LETTER CARRIERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Postmaster General (Mr. Bertrand), notice of which I gave him earlier to-day. I have just received a communication from him asking if I would postpone the question until to-morrow. However, as one of those who will not be able to be here to-morrow, since we shall be out over the Atlantic—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): We will make progress, then.

Mr. KNOWLES: Although I did not ask for that applause, I am grateful for it. At any rate I shall ask my question, and perhaps in my absence the Postmaster General will answer it to-morrow. The question is based upon a letter, a copy of which I sent the minister, which has been sent out to a number of letter carriers in Winnipeg advising them that in a few days they may expect separation notices.

In view of the statement the minister made on September 18, that consideration would be given to restoring two mail deliveries a day to urban areas, when the returning men came back, and in view of the figures in sessional paper 184, which show a shortage of letter carriers, would he reconsider the matter with a view to cancelling the separation notices to which I have referred?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

WAR AND DEMOBILIZATION

PROVISION FOR APPROPRIATION OF \$1,365,000,000 FOR WAR PURPOSES. DEMOBILIZATION, PRO- MOTION OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, ETC.

The house resumed from Friday, November 16, consideration in committee of a resolution to grant to His Majesty certain sums of money for the carrying out of measures deemed necessary or advisable in consequence of the war—Mr. Ilsley—Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Munitions and Supply): Mr. Chairman, it has been the practice in other years to submit the estimates of the Department of Munitions and Supply under eight items. For the convenience of the committee, I will again present the estimates of the department under a similar break-down showing estimated expenditures from April 1, 1945 to August 31, 1945, estimated expenditures for the year 1945-46, actual expenditures from April 1, 1945 to August 31, 1945, and estimated expenditures from September 1, 1945 to March 31, 1946, the balance of the fiscal year.

The break-down of the estimates is now being distributed to hon. members, and perhaps it will not be necessary for me to read it if I can obtain unanimous consent to have it placed on *Hansard*. The table follows:

[Mr. Abbott.]