

Militia Pension Act

tee which made its report to the government. That was advice to the government, on which it put forward this measure last year. I think at that time the name of the chairman of the committee was announced. He was Mr. Finlayson, the superintendent of insurance. It was an interservice committee with civilian and military personnel.

Mr. LENNARD: Could the minister at some later time give the names of that committee?

Mr. CLAXTON: No, certainly not.

Mr. LENNARD: Why not?

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I understand that the Canadian officers' training corps at the universities receive the benefit of this provision. I do not think they are any more in the army than are the cadets of the Royal Military College. Those cadets have been the backbone of the reserve army, and have been responsible to a great extent for keeping our regiments together. It is true that many of those men went to the Royal Military College with the intention of entering the permanent force, but I see no reason why they should be discriminated against in this instance. Certainly when they attend that military college they have a better idea that they are going to go into the army than they do if they are attending university. I see no reason why the Canadian officers' training corps should have an advantage over the men who attend the Royal Military College.

The minister said there would be a great deal of difficulty in adding the Royal Military College in this instance.

Mr. CLAXTON: I did not say anything at all about a difficulty.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Excuse me, the minister did; he said there would be a good deal of legal difficulty.

Mr. CLAXTON: No, I said nothing about legal difficulty.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): That the whole act would have to be amended, and that sort of thing.

Mr. CLAXTON: I never mentioned that.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): All the minister has to do is to give a little consideration to the college which did so much for this country during two wars. He could add a provision to include the Royal Military College and Royal Roads; that is all there is to it.

Mr. KIDD: I should like to answer the argument offered by the minister with respect to certain professions. I believe he is not

[Mr. Claxton.]

familiar with the fact that when a cadet leaves the Royal Military College he has already studied twenty-five subjects, half of which have been military subjects. When the cadet leaves the college to enter a permanent force unit he is much better qualified than a man leaving a university without a cadet's training. I believe the minister laboured that part of his argument to too great an extent.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): I thank the minister for adopting the suggestion I made last night, one which I believe will help toward consolidation of the services.

Before the section carries I should like to ask one further question. An item in the auditor general's report of this year indicates that a senior officer of the navy, after being placed on retirement leave, had himself put on command rates of pay and thereby increased his pension to the extent of \$509 a year. Will these amendments stop that sort of thing in future?

Mr. CLAXTON: I had not heard of the instance to which the hon. member refers, but I should like to look into it. The amendment before us does not touch that point.

Mr. SKEY: I am pleased to support the amendment, and am glad the minister has seen fit to recognize the common basis of national service of our army, navy and air force.

Mr. LENNARD: If the minister feels he cannot disclose the names of those who served on the interdepartmental committee, would he give me the assurance that the three defence services were well represented?

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

On the title.

Mr. ADAMSON: This would be a good time to say it is obvious there is considerable confusion about the whole matter of defence. Over the week-end a most important statement was made by General Crerar, and another one by General Marshall. We have this subject of defence, in all its aspects, directly before us today. In view of the changed circumstances in which Canada finds herself, I suggest to the minister, and through him to the government, that a defence committee of the house be established. We are no longer a colonial power. In force of arms we probably rank third among the democracies. The defence committee of the United States congress and that of the United Kingdom