

Mr. LOCKHART: Apparently there is no provision in the act for rehabilitating such of these men as are unable to take up any vocation. The minister said that committees are being set up to try to rehabilitate them. Has he any idea when men such as four or five whom I have particularly in mind may expect some assistance in obtaining light employment so that they may help themselves and their families?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I shall be very glad to look into the cases to which my hon. friend has referred. This resolution deals only with questions of pensions, not questions of reestablishment.

Mr. LOCKHART: Has the minister any idea when these committees will function?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): They are functioning now and have achieved some definite results. If my hon. friend will get in touch with me about the cases he has in mind I shall be glad to do what I can.

Mr. McCANN: Before there is any attempt on the part of the leader of the opposition or the minister to castigate the whole medical profession of Canada with reference to rejections for training service—

Mr. RALSTON: If my hon. friend will permit me, there was not the slightest suggestion of castigating the whole medical profession; I expressly said that there were cases in which it seemed that a slipshod examination had been made.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Will the hon. member permit me to say the same thing? I was not castigating the whole medical profession, only some members of it.

Mr. McCANN: I think both hon. gentlemen are taking a little backwater now. Anywhere in Canada members of the medical profession who are licentiates either of the dominion council or of the council of any province are perfectly competent to make the type of examination for which the department asked. It is only a cursory examination, and they are allowed a fee of one dollar. There is no objection on the part of the medical profession to making the examination at that fee; and let me say that the medical profession have co-operated with the Department of National War Services one hundred per cent. The fact that there have been some slipshod examinations should not be taken to cast a reflection on the medical profession in general.

When these men go into camp there is a competent board that makes an examination, and they have facilities that are not extended to the ordinary practitioner when he is making his examination. They have X-ray facilities,

they are called upon to make certain analyses, and it is much easier for them to pass judgment than for a medical practitioner in examining a man who comes into his office probably during office hours or any time he happens to be in town or in the vicinity. Compared with the number of rejections there have been among draftees for the United States army, the results of the medical examinations made by the profession throughout Canada are very good.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Do I understand the minister to say that on arrival at the training depot every recruit was reexamined by an authorized medical official before commencing training?

Mr. RALSTON: I understand that is so.

Mr. GREEN: This discussion has brought out a point which is of the utmost importance in connection with Canada's war effort, namely, the treatment of the men who are being discharged from the forces. The manner in which those men have been discharged is both unfair and unwise. I do not know whether it is the fault of the Department of Pensions and National Health or of the Department of National Defence—I rather suspect the latter; or it may be because of lack of cooperation between the two. But it comes out clearly from the facts given to us to-day. The Minister of Pensions and National Health says already about 20,000 men have been discharged from the Canadian forces. He says that out of that 20,000, only 484 have received pensions and there are practically no applications pending. The Minister of National Defence says that between 9,000 and 10,000 of those 20,000 have been discharged because they were medically unfit.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend must not pin me down to that, because I have said I will get exact figures.

Mr. GREEN: I do not blame the Minister of National Defence in person but I do blame the medical officers in his department.

Mr. RALSTON: I say, do not blame us on figures until we get them.

Mr. GREEN: Another figure was given by the Minister of Pensions and National Health, who said that 4,000 to 5,000 men have applied for pension and been refused. I am afraid the situation is that the Department of National Defence have been discharging these men just as fast as they can; as soon as they decide that a man will not get back to health and make a good soldier or air man or sailor he is discharged summarily from the force. That is not good enough.