

The War—Medical Standards

some 1,714 able-bodied Japanese nationals between the ages of eighteen and forty-five—what we call the military age—but it may be necessary to remove those over forty-five who are able-bodied.

CANADIAN ARMY—REVISION OF MEDICAL STANDARDS GOVERNING ENLISTMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): May I inquire of the Minister of National Defence whether the medical categories have been revised so as to admit men now for service in the army who were formerly rejected as medically unfit?

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend was good enough to send me a copy of the question. The physical standards were revised, and the changes appear in routine order No. 1350 dated October 4, 1941. To give an indication of changes which have been called to my attention, one revision applies to the visual acuity standards; another applies to those who had suffered from a radical mastoid operation; and a third applies to those who had suffered from some infection from a dry perforation of the ear drum. The routine order itself, as my hon. friend will see, because I am going to send him a copy, contains the clause:

Those rejected under the old standards for defective vision, radical mastoid, one side, or dry perforation of the ear drum, one side, should be encouraged to present themselves for reexamination and possible enlistment under these reduced standards.

That revision was made after a study of the United Kingdom and the United States regulations and standards in these respects, and after consultation with our eye-and-ear specialists. I am sending my hon. friend a copy of the order. It is very long, and I do not imagine hon. members will want this long order printed in the answers to questions. I shall be glad to table a copy of it if anyone wants it.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

KIRKLAND LAKE STRIKE—PROPOSALS FOR SETTLEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I would like to direct a question to the acting Minister of Labour or, if there is no acting Minister of Labour, to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). Some time ago the minister announced that he had made a submission to the parties in the Kirkland Lake dispute of a proposal of settlement of the strike by referring the matter to the national war labour board for arbitration.

[Mr. Ian A. Mackenzie.]

Later the minister announced the acceptance of the proposal by the workers' union on Sunday last; the matter then awaited the acceptance of the proposal by the mine owners. Can the acting Minister of Labour or the Prime Minister tell the house whether the reply of the mine owners has yet been received by the Department of Labour, and whether the proposals submitted by the Minister of Labour for arbitration have been accepted or rejected, or where the matter now stands?

Hon. N. A. McLARTY (Secretary of State): As the hon. member is aware, the Minister of Labour is not in the house at the present time. I would ask that the question stand as notice and be replied to on Monday. The information I have is that the submission made by the minister has been accepted by the miners, but I have not now at hand information as to whether it has been accepted by the operators. I know that the Minister of Labour is very actively engaged in this matter and has been for some time. I will endeavour to furnish the hon. member with the information in answer to his question on Monday.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE

BONUS PAYMENTS UNDER THE ACT AND IN RESPECT OF WHEAT ACREAGE REDUCTION AND GENERAL RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ROBERT FAIR (Battle River): May I ask the Minister of Agriculture when the farmers may expect payment of bonus under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, the wheat acreage reduction regulations, and the general relief bonus? Some of these are now nearly six months overdue, and the farmers are getting uneasy.

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): Payments under the Wheat Acreage Reduction Act are practically all made. By the end of November last approximately \$25,000,000 had been paid out. Payments under the income regulations are in course of being made. I am not in a position to state just what part of them are out, but the greater part. Payments under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act were of course not to be made until the month of December. I am not sure of the figures with regard to the other two provinces, but in Saskatchewan \$7,500,000 had been passed through P.F.A. for payment by the end of the first week in January. Those payments will be made, of course, on the basis of 60 per cent following December 1 and 40 per cent following March 1. In other words, the payments are either made or in course of being made under all the different plans.