

I complained that there were not enough able-bodied men for the defence of the country, and the minister was very indignant. He said my statement was unwarranted and unfair and unjust and untrue. Well, the idea behind pulhems is that they are keeping in the army men who are not physically fit, but who could do much more for the war effort if they were not in the army. So that I hope the minister will be kind enough to give us the information for which I have asked, as he has answered questions asked by other hon. members since his estimates came under discussion, and I hope he will let us know what is behind the whole thing.

Mr. RALSTON: I am going to deal only with one or two of the hon. member's questions which I think can be answered quickly. Of course the hon. member is not serious when he says there are no degrees of abnormality. I have heard of people being half-crazy or half-witted, and have always thought there were different degrees of mental disability just as there are different degrees of physical disability. Then the hon. member asks what are the five divisions for each of the classifications into which a pulhems examination falls. They simply represent the rating given to the particular candidate in the particular realm indicated by the letter. For instance, "P" or physical is divided into five classes; 1 means perfect; 2 means fit for overseas service; 3 means fit for base service; 4 means fit for service in Canada, and 5 means that the man should be discharged. It is simply a question of degree. The same would apply to a disability of the upper limbs; 1 means perfect, 2 means fit for service overseas, and so on. The same applies to a disability of the lower limbs, to a heart disability, to an eye disability, and so on.

Then the hon. gentleman asks why division 3 is left out under classification "M". This is because a classification of fit for base service, as far as mental capacity is concerned, is too fine a distinction to make when you are measuring a man's mental capacity. The figure 2 means that the man is fit for overseas service, while the figure 4 means that he is fit for service in Canada. It is too fine a distinction to attempt to put another division in between and call it 3, when you are discussing this mental classification. The hon. member asks also why division 2 is left out in reference to stability. That is because the stability required for base service and for service in Canada is regarded as practically equal to the stability required for service overseas. There is no mystery about this matter at all, and there is no doubt about the

different divisions. They refer to the different classes of service for which a man may be regarded as fit or otherwise.

Then the hon. member asked for the number of men in each district rejected as mentally unfit. If the hon. member will put that on the order paper, or I will take it now as a notice, I shall deal with it in the regular way. He will understand that it might be three or four weeks before I could bring down that information. The same will apply to a number of other questions he asked. I shall look over them and advise him; and if the questions cannot be answered I shall tell him so.

Mr. POULIOT: I thank the minister, but I would ask him to be kind enough to tell us what is meant by "stability".

Mr. RALSTON: I am afraid the hon. member will have to refer to the Oxford dictionary. There is a very good classification there.

Mr. POULIOT: They give special meaning to words, and when I look at the dictionary it is not the meaning they have in the army.

Mr. RALSTON: I will answer the hon. member's next question, where he asked about army doctors. He said there are only three specialists, and yet there are seven divisions. I can tell him that the physician examines with regard to physique, which is "P." The surgeon examines with regard to upper and lower limbs, which are "U" and "L," and the specialists—there may be one or two specialists, as the case may be—examine with regard to "H" and "E," which have to do with the eye, ear, nose and throat. The army examiner examines with respect to mental capacity, and the psychiatrist examines with respect to stability.

Then, with regard to the hon. member's further question respecting the classification of stability, my reply is that it simply means a man's ability to adjust himself satisfactorily to the life of a soldier.

Mr. POULIOT: Now, here is the point: It is exactly the same thing in the civil service examinations. There were points allowed for personality. When I asked Mr. Bland, the chairman of the civil service commission, and the chief examiner, and all other witnesses, what was meant by personality, or how they defined it, they were unable to do so. But the examiner was allowed to give marks to the person examined, just for personality.

Here we have "mentality." It is the army examiner who decides upon mentality. Who is that army examiner? There is mystery in that, just as there was in the civil service examinations. We fought against it, and all hon. members complained about it. Members