

Mr. ABBOTT: I have had no complaints as to the inadequacy or bad quality of the ration. The ration on the continent was cut, as I announced in the house some little time ago. Formerly, when the troops were engaged in combat service, there was a surplus ration. Now the ration is the same for all the troops of occupation, that is all the commonwealth troops.

Mr. PROBE: The British standard, supplemented by—

Mr. ABBOTT: Supplemented by fruit juice. As to the lack of vocational and educational facilities, this is the first complaint I have heard. We are doing our best to see that these facilities are provided and will continue so long as our troops are there. As to the provision of recreational facilities, my hon. friend will appreciate that it is somewhat difficult to maintain the same standard and quality of concert parties as we had when more of the troops were there. An effort is being made to see that these facilities are provided because we realize how important it is to the morale of the troops. As regards combat men being retained in the army of occupation when N.R.M.A. men and others are not sent there, the answer is that you cannot run any army with totally inexperienced men, or men with a low degree of training. It has been necessary therefore, in the army of occupation, to have some high-point men who have seen combat service to provide the necessary discipline and supervision, but they are being replaced as rapidly as shorter service men can be sent forward.

Item agreed to.

Normal services—

183. Battlefields memorials, \$49,625.

Mr. MacNICOL: Does this vote pertain wholly to battlefields memorials?

Mr. ABBOTT: Yes.

Item agreed to.

LEGISLATION

House of Commons—

117. The Speaker of the House of Commons—salary and motor car allowance, \$7,000.

Allowance in lieu of residence, \$3,000.

The deputy speaker of the House of Commons—salary, \$4,000.

Mr. ADAMSON: I wish to make a suggestion which I think is very timely. We have watched these estimates going through, having sat here nearly a month, meeting at eleven o'clock in the morning and sitting until eleven at night. Some of the estimates have been rushed through with the everlasting complaint of insufficient discussion. First of all I would ask the government to set up

the rules of the house committee as one of the first of its acts at the next session of parliament, and to see to it that the committee meets. This session we had only one meeting, and only covered one-eleventh of the work of the previous committee. We brought in only one recommendation.

There is a second suggestion I have to make. The proceedings of the house in the last few weeks have become a travesty. We are ceasing to be an efficient instrument of democracy. We are losing our efficiency, and are ceasing to carry out the function of expressing the will of the people. This is a serious situation. I wish to make one complaint here and now, and to carry on from where the Minister of Labour left off the other day. I suggest that consideration be given the question of having estimates reviewed in a committee of the house before being brought on to the floor, and that when they are brought in here they come down as one item. All contentious debate could be held at this time. The external affairs committee passed through this house, to-day or yesterday, a resolution that the estimates of that department be put through the special committee first. There has been a resolution, and there is general agreement, that the national defence estimates should go to a committee on national defence and be discussed there. I shall not discuss the obvious advantages of being able to have experts questioned orally instead of having them here mumbling and passing over to the minister a piece of paper of which the minister may or may not have full comprehension.

I suggest further that we follow the British practice and institute a limitation upon debate. This session we have had long debates on the speech from the throne and on bill 15. They may have been important debates; possibly that on bill 15 was. But frankly we do a lot of beating the air. The debate on the speech from the throne was not of great importance. I suggest to the government that at the next session serious consideration be given to the limitation of these debates which have been so long, so that we shall not go through the travesty of bringing in estimates as we do and behaving as we have done in the last two or three weeks. Parliament is on trial at this moment as never before.

Mr. MACKENZIE: On behalf of Mr. Speaker, who is in charge of the estimates, may I refer for one moment to the observations of my hon. friend. His leader asked me a question yesterday morning when I was not in the house, and I replied to the question