

*War Veterans' Allowances*

and is adopting a suggestion that we have pressed earnestly upon it during the last two sessions. However, I should like to have a more complete report from the minister. He has referred to five thousand of the fifteen thousand unemployed veterans who served in a theatre of actual war, but he has said nothing about the other ten thousand who are fit and whose plight was very fully dealt with in the report of the veterans' assistance commission. The recommendation was made that they should be paid a provisional economic allowance. On February 15, I asked the minister a question—which appears at page 493 of Hansard and is as follows:

Mr. Green: If the minister is not prepared to make a statement to-night with regard to the recommendations of the veterans' assistance commission, how soon will he be ready to make that statement?

Mr. Power: As I have already stated, within a week or ten days.

That was the answer the minister made then, and he has had twice that length of time in which to make the statement. Can he now tell us what is to be done about the other recommendations of the veterans' assistance commission?

Mr. POWER: I do not know that I am under any obligation to make such a statement on this resolution leading to the introduction of a bill, because we are fully implementing and more than implementing one recommendation. I do not think there is any reason why we should be called upon to deal with fifteen or twenty recommendations, some of which have no relation to this bill.

Mr. GREEN: Perhaps the minister could deal with the recommendation with respect to the provisional economic allowance. That is the main recommendation in the report, and if he will deal with that alone I think that we shall be satisfied.

Mr. POWER: To some extent I am dealing with the provisional economic allowance. The commission recommended, in one part at least, that a great many of these men—five thousand of them who are going to be covered by the war veterans' allowance—should receive a provisional economic allowance amounting to \$18.75 per month for single men and \$30 for married men. This bill will give \$20 to the single men and \$40 to the married men, so that in that respect it is more generous than the recommendation made by the veterans' assistance commission. I have no objection to laying down principles in so far as this bill is concerned. This bill will not deal with the one hundred per cent fit man. Most hon. gentlemen will agree

[Mr. Green.]

with me in considering that the one hundred per cent fit man is not the responsibility of the federal government. If he is out of work at the present time it is due to economic causes and not to war causes. If a man is absolutely fit to work it is extremely difficult to attribute his unemployability to his war service. But it is intended by this bill to cover everybody who can in any way attribute his present unemployability to the war, who is suffering from a disability which may be intangible, who, in other words, is possibly washed up, burnt out, who has not been able to obtain employment for the last few years. That man will come under the provisions of the bill. If, however, a man is absolutely fit and can take a job if one is offered him, he is not considered to be a responsibility of the government under the War Veterans' Allowance Act.

Mr. NEILL: Is there to be an age limit?

Mr. POWER: None whatever.

Mr. GREEN: Are we to take it from what the minister has said that the government is against the finding of the commission as set out at page 63 of the report in the following words:

... the commission has come to the conclusion that it can do no less than recommend that the dominion government accept responsibility for all indigent unemployed veterans who were domiciled in Canada at the date of enlistment and who saw service in a theatre of actual war.

Mr. POWER: The government is accepting responsibility for the fit man by endeavouring to find employment for him. As a matter of fact through the instrumentality of the veterans' assistance commission during the past year it has accomplished the following:

## Employment—

Permanent placements.. . . .	2,210
Temporary placements.. . . .	4,784
Casual placements.. . . .	4,329

Total.. . . . 11,323

## Probational Training—

Commencements.. . . .	598
Discontinued.. . . .	79
Employed as trained.. . . .	263
Employed otherwise.. . . .	10
Tourists' guides.. . . .	45
Not retained by employer.. . . .	40
Still on training.. . . .	161

Total.. . . . 598

## Corps of Commissionaires—

The appointment of a board of governors in Montreal led to the appointment of boards of governors and divisions of the corps in leading centres throughout the dominion.

Actually since the corps was organized last year 48 commissionaires have been permanently