

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You think that there would be a lack of discipline?

Mr. GRAYDON: There is nothing especially unusual about that.

Mr. POWER: I am simply quoting the cliché that they should be kept in the army until jobs are found for them. As I say, in my opinion it would hardly work under those circumstances. If something else is meant; if it is meant that we should continue to give them the same pay, the same financial advantages or otherwise, as they would receive if they remained in the service, then that would be another question. I submit that that is a matter which has to be dealt with by the civilian agency which deals with the man and not by the military service agency. The point I am trying to make is that the service agencies are not the proper departments to look after the man in civil life, except to make such preparations for his future career in civilian life as can be made while he remains in the service while the war is on, or while demobilization is on—which may be a long period; or while the period of occupying Europe is on, or while the period of policing Europe is on, or while we are still at war with Japan, which may be long after the end of the war with Germany.

Some of my officers think that I am pig-headed when I cannot agree with the theory that the service should look after these men up until the time when they are fully established in civilian life. My recollection of the last war is that there was an eagerness, almost amounting to mutiny, to get out of the units as quickly as possible. I admit that in this war the mentality is different. I fully recognize that men are younger, that many of them never had any other job. They realize there is some security in the armed services where they get three meals a day. There is perhaps a different mentality in the boys of to-day than there was in those of twenty-five years ago, but when the incentive to drill in order to fight, when the incentive to undergo discipline in order to be better fighters to beat the enemy is gone, when they remain under those conditions for four, five or six months after hostilities have ceased, there is a possibility they will be bored to death and will no longer want to remain in their units.

Mr. GRAYDON: Will not a great deal depend upon the availability of jobs and other opportunities for these boys when they are ready to enter civilian life? If there are no opportunities available there would be an inducement for them to stay longer in the service. On the other hand, if there are

opportunities available in civilian life the boys will want to get the best ones as quickly as possible.

Mr. POWER: I quite agree with my hon. friend. Whatever we have in the way of rehabilitation grants, in the way of service gratuities, or whatever we do in the way of finding them jobs, none of this will be any good if our national economy does not progress to the point where there will be opportunities for these men to work and earn a decent living.

Having perhaps lightly laid aside the responsibilities of the service with regard to rehabilitation, properly so-called, and again subject to any opposite viewpoints which may be expressed, I come now to matters under our jurisdiction.

Mr. GRAYDON: Are you and the pensions department in agreement on these matters?

Mr. POWER: I have explained how the Department of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment was set up to deal with the rehabilitation of the returned soldier. The service has a responsibility in connection with repatriation. The civilians cannot do that; they cannot bring back our men. The service has a responsibility in connection with demobilization, and also in connection with the priorities of demobilization, as to both units and individuals. My colleague, the Minister of National Defence, has spoken of our plans and the set-up which in fact is working now. There shall be in each department a director of demobilization who will be charged with all the duties connected with repatriation and demobilization.

Mr. GRAYDON: That is in the three services?

Mr. POWER: Each service; there shall be one in each service. He will correlate his activities with those of the other services through a demobilization council of the three services. Then, in order to get in closer touch with the civilian agencies—because after all the services must know what plans are being made by the civilian agencies—there will be an interdepartmental board composed of representatives of the three services, representatives of the Department of Pensions and National Health, who are charged with the rehabilitation; representatives of the Department of Labour, which is charged with the actual placements; and representatives of the department of reconstruction when it comes to be constructed.

Now, in order to show the importance which in common with my colleagues I attach to the