

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What is meant by "potential" reinforcements.

Mr. RALSTON: I do not know; I suppose men in hospital.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Men behind the lines anyway.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend must remember that if there is a holocaust or anything of that kind, a lot of men in England have been used for the formation of new units; a number of these are base and line of communication units, and if an emergency should occur, they can be used. But there is the situation in regard to reinforcements, and it has been brought to that state by constant attention. As a matter of fact, the adjutant-general has been giving as much attention to that as to anything he has been doing since he has occupied the post. We are determined that that quota shall be kept up, and if the quota is raised we will go to it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Of course we are all in agreement that this is one of the most important things to which the staff can give attention, the reinforcement of the men likely to be in action.

Mr. RALSTON: There is no doubt about that.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I feel relieved to a degree by the assurance given by the minister, even though he cannot give me the actual percentages or figures in relation to the reinforcements overseas. I suppose he gives that on the basis of representations made by his staff, in whom he has confidence, and who of course have no object whatever in misleading him.

I think it would be well to give publicity to this discussion. I am glad I brought it out, because I think it will be reassuring to the people of Canada. If it should happen that this percentage of reinforcements is not sufficiently large, of course it is the task of the staff to raise it.

Mr. RALSTON: We shall just have to bring it up.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I hope the officials in making this quota have not been unduly influenced by the fact that the Canadian corps in England has not yet been in action. Surely we must look to the time when a second front is opened in Europe, or whatever eventuality may happen. We must anticipate the time when there will be battle casualties, and the wastage of 1,500 while the troops are not active will have no relation to the wastage in battle.

Mr. RALSTON: I think the second question asked by my hon. friend was with regard to how the quotas were made up and sent to the different districts. Was that for the active army?

Mr. WHITE: For the active army, by military districts according to population.

Mr. RALSTON: There was a table given last November in which the adjutant-general made a statement as to just how these quotas were made up, and I think that applies to-day. I have not asked the adjutant-general except just across the table here to-night, and he tells me it does.

Mr. HOMUTH: That was not on the basis of population.

Mr. RALSTON: No, three things: population, the militia activity in the particular district, that is both the number of active units that have been raised and the reserve units as well; and the recruiting record of the district.

Mr. HOMUTH: Prior enlistment.

Mr. WHITE: I have that table, and I just wanted to know if that would be followed.

Mr. RALSTON: Can my hon. friend give me the reference to it?

Mr. WHITE: I have not *Hansard* here.

Mr. RALSTON: I was going to show it to the adjutant-general. It was made up by one of the young men in his office.

Mr. BOUCHER: While the minister is on that subject could he give the committee any insight as to the scheme of priorities to be embarked on in the future, namely what classes he is calling?

Mr. RALSTON: I am afraid I cannot give the statement to-night. The question of the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough was what is proposed to be done when the present age limit up to thirty is exhausted, whether we would go to thirty-five in single men or take married men without children. That matter has not been discussed, it is one primarily for national war services, although my department is interested. It will be discussed soon. I can only say that announcement will be made by the Minister of National War Services in due course. If there are any suggestions I should be glad to hear them.

Mr. WHITE: If the minister wants 10,000 men, does he just ask the Minister of National War Services to have that number called up, or has the minister anything to do with the way in which those men are selected and called?