

*War Appropriation—Army*

England was 1.6 per cent of the enlisted personnel. That estimate was based on a survey of approximately 70,000 troops. Of those who enlisted in Canada in the first three months of 1943 about one per cent were illiterate.

The hon. member for Vancouver South asked a question respecting aliens in the army. It is very difficult to give figures which really mean anything, because our figures are by country of origin. The total number in the Canadian army whose country of origin is other than British is less than 25,000.

Mr. GREEN: I think the minister did not get the idea of my question. Those, I presume, are British subjects now?

Mr. RALSTON: Some of them are, and some are not. Those from enemy countries—and in this I am getting a little nearer to what my hon. friend wants—whose country of origin are enemy countries are less than 2,500. With regard to those I would point out that investigations are constantly in progress. Such investigations as have been made show that between 65 and 70 per cent are actually naturalized prior to enlistment.

Mr. GREEN: The minister has not yet touched the point. About a year ago the Prime Minister announced that we were to call up aliens, under the provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act. Formerly only British subjects could be called. In the return I mentioned yesterday it was shown that 751 aliens had been called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act, but that only three had got so far as to be taken into the army. What I want to know is how many have now been taken into the army; if there have been very few, why has there been such a long delay? I was dealing with the aliens called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act.

Mr. RALSTON: I have not that information. I am afraid what the hon. member wants would require securing a return, first, from each of the boards—and from my colleague the Minister of Labour, because some of them would have been called up there—and, second, a return from induction centres of those who have got past the board and have been sent for medical examination. This is an involved investigation. However, the number is not large and I shall see what I can do about it.

[Mr. Ralston.]

Mr. GREEN: Perhaps the minister could bring the information down in a return. I want to find out how many have got into the army.

Mr. ADAMSON: How many of those 2,500 are serving overseas?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not the information here, and I am always afraid to guess. I had in mind saying there might be 500, or something like that.

Mr. ADAMSON: Serving overseas?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley) asked a question respecting rentals paid. The rentals paid in Saskatchewan, on a quick calculation, show in round figures, an amount of \$104,000. Those paid in Regina were \$44,000 and in Saskatoon, \$36,000.

The hon. member for Weyburn asked with regard to treatment for venereal disease, namely, v.d.g. and v.d.s. I am not able to give complete information, but I shall give what I have to the committee. Overseas in 1940-41 there were 2,458 cases of v.d.g. treated and cured, and 656 cases of v.d.s. treated. I am unable to state how many of these men were retained in the army, or the number of cures obtained by treatment of v.d.s. Presumably all soldiers cured of v.d.g. were retained in the army or, if discharged, were discharged for other reasons. In Canada up to March 31, 1943, there were 2,873 cases of v.d.s. and 18,191 cases of v.d.g. treated. Up to April 1, 1942, there were 416 discharged on account of venereal disease, the most of which, presumably, were cases of v.d.s.

The hon. member for Lake Centre asked for the total amount expended for Debent camp. It will take several days to get that information together, and I shall furnish it at some convenient time. He asked about the International Water Supply company; that question also is still outstanding.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member for St. John-Albert (Mr. Hazen) asked a question respecting the public relations branch.

Mr. RALSTON: I told the hon. member the return was nearly ready, and I shall see that it is brought down and laid on the table. It will be ready shortly, and it can be laid on the table when the estimates of the Minister of National Defence for Air are under discussion.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I asked the minister a question with regard to the proportion of active men called up for service in the three Canadian divisions.