

Mr. GRAHAM: The cost of training each cadet for three years is \$12,000.

Mr. CRERAR: That is \$4,000 a year?

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes, \$4,000 a year. At the present time 25 graduates are serving in the Royal Canadian navy, and a number are undergoing further training in the Royal navy. The complement of the college is 12 officers and 41 instructors and 12 civilians, a total of 65. I will not say that number of officers, instructors and civilians in various employment are not necessary, because each branch has to be taught, and a man could instruct a hundred, perhaps, as easily as he could instruct two, but in this line of instruction 65 people are employed under pay to instruct 42 young men; that is, merely to finish their education so that they can go into the second year in the university, after this training as midshipmen. And the cost to each pupil is \$12,000. In the face of the fact that there is no future for the boy, either here or abroad, for some years at least, should we continue that? Perhaps you will say that it is useful in that it trains the young men in other walks of life. But surely that is not part of the federal authority's duty. Education belongs to the provinces, and the reason for the institution of this naval college was that it might train boys for the naval service. When we consider that each graduate costs \$12,000, and after the training they are only fit for a second year in a university, without any naval career ahead of them, I believe the country will agree that we ought for the time being to close down the naval college.

Mr. MacKELVIE: What the minister has said may be taken as an argument for the discontinuance of the college, as far as new pupils are concerned, but I still think he must recognize the fact that some obligation rests upon the Government regarding these lads who are there, who have entered in good faith, on the understanding that their training was to be completed. Did I understand the minister to say that the Royal Navy now refuses to take any further graduates in the school?

Mr. GRAHAM: No, I did not say that.

Mr. MacKELVIE: How is it that no career is open for them in the navy?

Mr. GRAHAM: The Royal navy does not need officers, and is dismissing officers every day at the rate of something like 2,000 I think. What young man would care to enter on that career? As a matter

of fact, during the last two years, before that took place, only four went from the college to the Royal navy.

Mr. McKELVIE: I would like to have an answer from the minister with reference to the point I raised, as to whether he concedes that the government has any responsibility in connection with those lads who are already taking the course, having in good faith entered the institution.

Mr. GRAHAM: The boys who are just on the first year have not lost much, as their junior training would stand them in good stead anywhere. In the second place, we are endeavouring to get various universities to accept second year boys as matriculants, without examination. The third year boys come to the universities and are credited with the second year work.

Mr. GUTHRIE: They may go to the university if they are fortunate enough to have parents or friends sufficiently well off to finance them through their university career, but, if I understand aright, a number of those boys are not so situated, and a nice question arises as to what is to be done with the boy whose father is not able to give him a university career and who may have spent two or three years at the naval college, having gone there in good faith hoping to complete his education and enter the navy and make that his calling for a lifetime. A difficulty arises in connection with the cadets of the naval college, but I think, perhaps, a greater difficulty will arise in connection with those who have gone through the naval college. I was always under the impression that the British Admiralty had made an arrangement with the Government of Canada that they would accept a certain limited number of our naval college graduates each year. I do not know what the number was, but I think probably those who graduated from the college were entitled to a course in the British navy and to become fully equipped in every respect. Judging from what the minister has intimated to the committee to-day, I gather that this arrangement is still in force. There has been no intimation from the British government that it will not continue that practice and accept from Canada or the other Dominions such men as we may prepare and send forward. Of course, if we stop the college we certainly will not have any boys to send forward. But I do not think the trouble is with the British Admiralty. I doubt