

CANADIAN ARMY—DOCTOR LEBBITTER

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West):

1. Was Dr. Lebbitter commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel?
2. What are his qualifications?
3. What was his former rank in the army and former experience?
4. What are his duties?
5. On whose authority was he commissioned?
6. On whose request?

Mr. RALSTON: Return tabled.

MOTION FOR PAPERS

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

Mr. McGREGOR:

For a return showing the names of all the persons on the staff of the British Columbia security commission and their respective duties and the salary paid to each one of such persons.

COAL

CAPE BRETON MINING FIELDS—TRANSPORTATION
BY WATER TO CENTRAL CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. E. McGARRY (Inverness-Richmond): I desire to direct to the acting Minister of Transport a question of urgent national importance. Can the minister give information with regard to any considered plan by the Canadian National Railways to transport coal by water carriers and rail to the central Canadian markets and thus adequately to supply these markets and stabilize production in the Cape Breton mining fields?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. This is a question which should be placed on the order paper.

RECRUITING

REMARKS LIABLE TO PREJUDICE VOLUNTARY
ENLISTMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. LIGUORI LACOMBE (Laval-Two Mountains) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent). Has he any knowledge of the following excerpt from an address given in a public meeting:

Enlistment figures in Quebec do not represent the true situation because the clergy has been so opposed to enlistment that it has been necessary to bring in soldiers from elsewhere.

Since remarks of this nature are liable to prejudice recruiting and cause disaffection with respect to his majesty, has the Minister of Justice—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. This is a question which should be placed upon the order paper.

MOBILIZATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO REPEAL SECTION 3 PROVIDING
LIMITATION IN RESPECT OF SERVICE OVERSEAS

The house resumed from Friday, June 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie King for the second reading of Bill No. 80, to amend the National Resources Mobilization Act, 1940.

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the question before the house is the second reading of a bill to amend the National Resources Mobilization Act by the deletion of section 3. As is well known by hon. members, section 3 provides the one exception to the powers which were given to the government of Canada under the National Resources Mobilization Act.

I should like to ask in the first instance, in presenting argument in favour of the amendment, why section 3 was placed in the act in 1940, when that measure was brought before this house, and I would answer that question by reading a statement which was made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) on that occasion, as reported in *Hansard* of June 18, 1940:

The bill is intended to remove any doubt as to the power of the government and the will of parliament that the whole of the material resources of the country should be available whenever they are required to meet the needs of the war. The operation of the measure will be confined to the period of the war.

Recruitment for service overseas will be maintained on a voluntary basis. No difficulty has been experienced and no difficulty is anticipated in raising by the voluntary system all the men required for service outside Canada.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, in order that some remarks which I am going to make during the time that is allowed me may be fully understood, I should also place on *Hansard* a statement which was then made by the late Minister of Justice, Mr. Lapointe. He was speaking to an amendment which had been moved to the motion then before the house, and he said, as reported at page 877:

I feel perfectly at ease to explain my attitude on this question. Somebody speaks of the pledges given. I invite all my friends to read the observations I made in this house when war was declared; I invite them to read my speech of the preceding session on the subject of Canada's neutrality.

I am sure that every hon. member who was then here will recall that that was one of the finest speeches ever delivered in the Canadian House of Commons.

I then said to my fellow-countrymen that the province, one of whose representatives I have the honour to be, was opposed to compulsory military service overseas, and that we would fight it, and that I would fight it; that if it