

man who believes in the policies to be carried out by the government, who can tell us flatly that he is going to do everything he can to carry out the policies of the government, and whose whole record will be behind carrying out the new policy of the government which has been expressed to him to-day by the cabinet, by his party, and which is very much the opinion of the whole nation or at least eight-ninths of the nation?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have to say to my hon. friend that if he has any questions to ask about resignations of ministers the proper person to ask is the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the one who gives advice to the crown as to whether a resignation is in order, whether it should be accepted or not. No minister of the crown should be expected to answer a question such as my hon. friend has just addressed to the Minister of National Defence. May I say to him that he usually is very thoughtful and courteous and considerate. I do not know whether he has realized that this is the first day on which the Minister of National Defence has ever been on the floor of parliament, has ever had to address a great parliamentary assembly such as the assembly of the commons here to-day, and that he has a right to expect from hon. members when he comes into this chamber and is subjected to questions by experienced members, expert lawyers and others, in the nature of a cross-examination for the first time that he has ever had an experience of the kind, some due consideration. I would say to my hon. friend that due consideration does not consist—

Mr. HOMUTH: He asked for it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This consideration is scarcely being shown to the minister when he is asked whether he does not think—when he is performing his duties in a magnificent way—that he owed it to himself and the government to resign therefrom. I say to my hon. friend that no minister of the crown that I have ever known has on the first day of his experience with the House of Commons shown the great ability in matters relating to government which the Minister of National Defence has shown to-night, to say nothing of his knowledge of military affairs. There is no man in Canada who has the knowledge and the lifelong contact with military affairs which the present Minister of National Defence has.

Mr. HOMUTH: What about the ex-minister?

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland, Ont.): What changed you six months ago?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: What change did you take in the last war?

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland, Ont.): You change every time an idea changes.

Mr. HOMUTH: Stand up when you speak.

The SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni has the floor.

Mr. NEILL: If the minister does not wish to answer my question he does not have to, but if he is the man I think he is, he will.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, may I continue my questions at the point at which I was interrupted. Am I to understand from the general that the answer to my question is, as the hon. member for Prince (Mr. Ralston) indicated, that there is to be no further recombining of the general service men for any part of the 16,000 extra men required for reinforcements?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The answer is that there is constantly going on a combing of the general service personnel in Canada, that men from the N.R.M.A. units who convert to general service will be in those figures that are going forward, and that any deficit in those figures will be made up under authority of the order in council from the men suitably trained under the N.R.M.A. There are several streams going in. I expect that the great bulk of the 16,000 men will be N.R.M.A. men, but I cannot say that that is the only source, because there will be other sources coming in to make up the stream.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Can you indicate at all the number that you expect to get by recombining the general service and the number that you will have to take from the N.R.M.A.?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The number from general service which will be included in these transshipments of 5,000, 5,000 and three lots of 2,000 is not large. There will be some, but not many.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: You would not care to indicate the actual number?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I was only able to announce the decision, and there is a lot of detailed planning and staff work to be done before we shall know who will be in what shipment and so on.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Do we understand that you expect to get part of the first 5,000 by volunteer enlistments from the N.R.M.A. and that the remainder will be called up under the authority of the order in council?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: That is right.