

*By Mr. Brooks:*

Q. Have you had any complaints from any commanding officers of the units that they have not been receiving what they were entitled to from the canteens?—A. No. I did not hear any complaint, because the operation of the canteen is more or less under the control of the officer commanding the unit, and any complaints that he may have are pretty much within his own hands to remedy.

Q. How could he control that, if all the profits are being handled by the services?—A. Well, he has a pretty fair idea; and if the canteen is not giving his men the service, then he can either take it over himself or get someone else.

Q. In Canada here they set up in each unit a canteen committee composed of the officer commanding, an n.c.o. and a private?—A. Yes.

Q. Is that not done in England? That is the only way I can see how the commanding officer would know what is going on.—A. Of course, I think in every unit there is a committee within the unit.

Q. I think there must be.—A. Yes.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Does that canteen committee in Canada supervise the auxiliary service canteens?

Mr. BROOKS: They know about all the profits. They know how the money is spent and they more or less know something of the accounting that goes on.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. In Britain are there not canteens which are operated separate and apart from the units—for instance, in large cities like London?—A. Oh, there are canteens in various communities operated by many organizations.

Q. No. I am referring to the auxiliary services or one of the auxiliary services.—A. Well, in their hostels in London they have a canteen in each hostel but that is included in the eighty-seven I gave you.

Q. But there would be no commanding officer to supervise in that canteen or no committee?—A. No, not that but with the auxiliary service, the officer in the area charged with the responsibility for the hotel has the general supervision, although he does nothing with the accounting.

Q. Are the profits from those canteens used also for the benefit of the troops generally?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Marshall:*

Q. The fact remains that since the outbreak of war up to the present time there has been no accounting system set up in Great Britain with respect to the disposition of the funds of the canteens.—A. Might I also point out that from the beginning the Canadian organizations did not operate canteens. I think possibly, without being able to give the exact date, it is only about a year since our organizations commenced to operate their own canteens.

Q. Now we are getting a better picture of the thing, I think.

*By Mr. Ross (Middlesex):*

Q. There is a committee looking after or formulating this accounting system, I suppose.—A. Well, it is being done by the military authorities—the Canadian military authorities.

Q. Do you know who the members are who will pay special attention to the formation of this machinery?—A. Well, Colonel Booth, the assistant deputy adjutant general, is the officer at Canadian military headquarters, and the assistant director of auxiliary services. They are the two who would be charged with that responsibility.

Q. They are charged with that responsibility?—A. Yes.