

Supply—National Defence

States except in very rare cases they do not have the land forces and the water forces in the same station. In the interests of economy, I would ask the minister if it would not be advisable to leave the land forces where they are, and to establish the water forces at Trenton.

Mr. RALSTON: I do not think my hon. friend got the figures that I gave. I pointed out that if we stay at Borden we will still have to make a very substantial permanent expenditure of something over one million dollars; the buildings there are not fireproof and we have had over half a million dollars fire losses; that we have \$1,700,000 worth of technical equipment and stores there and therefore Borden would have to have permanent structures if we were to stay there. In addition to that, if my hon. friend's suggestion were accepted we would have to have another base for seaplane training at Trenton or some other suitable place.

Mr. MANION: I did not mention Trenton particularly. I meant the point decided on.

Mr. RALSTON: It would mean not only double expenditure in connection with plant, but also double overhead. Dealing with what my hon. friend from Kingston—

Mr. TUMMON: Might I just say a word before the minister proceeds? Reference was made to the air organization in the United States. Is it not a fact that there they have two different services while in Canada we have only one?

Mr. RALSTON: That is the answer. In the United States there are three air services as a matter of fact, the navy, the military and the Department of Commerce. Here all the air services are combined under one department. One hon. member said that the United States have 53 training stations while we have one central station. I think our form of combined organization will lead the committee to the conclusion that it is in the interests of economy that we combine our seaplane and land plane training if we possibly can. That is what we are endeavouring to do. We are not scrapping Camp Borden as a permanent aviation plant; it never was such. There is, as I have said, plant at Borden to the value of \$234,000 which might be utilized in connection with a combined station; but when you got through with spending over a million dollars you would have only a land plane base, with disadvantages which I need not take the time of the committee to enumerate. I can assure hon. members that the matter has been carefully looked into

[Mr. Manion.]

by the officers of the department, and they say that Borden cannot be made a suitable place for an aviation training station. My hon. friend said that the British authorities reported something to the contrary. I think he will find that that is not so. They simply took an army concentration camp such as we had and adapted it as an aviation camp; but it was not primarily an aviation camp and was not so constructed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I mention that it takes a little time to arrange for the proceedings of prorogation, a number of matters having to be considered in connection therewith. I would suggest, therefore, to the committee that we leave over for the time being items that are likely to be discussed at some length and dispose of what might be termed non-contentious items, in order that the government may be able to form some idea as to the hour at which prorogation can be arranged. We have taken nearly one hour on this single item. I think we might well proceed with other items and take up this particular item again if it is going to involve much more in the way of discussion.

Item stands.

INDIANS

Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Northwest Territories—

Hospitals, medical attendance, etc.—further amount required, \$25,000.

Supplies for destitute Indians—further amount required, \$30,000.

To provide farm working outfits for graduates of Indian schools, \$15,000.

Surveys—further amount required, \$5,000.

Sioux—further amount required, \$8,000.—Total, \$83,000.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Under this item I wish to draw the attention of the minister to the sale of section 26, township 32, range 32, west of the first meridian. This land was formerly used as pasturage by the Keeseekoose Indian reserve. At different times there was talk of its being thrown open for sale. A number of people wrote to the department asking to be given an opportunity to bid. There are letters on the file showing that departmental officials promised to notify some of these people when the land would be offered for sale. However, it was finally withdrawn in 1926 and remained as pasture. Later on apparently a certain party got after this land and it was sold to him privately at a good deal less than its actual value. One of the gentlemen who had correspondence with the department, a barrister and real estate agent, tells me that he had offers