

Supply—Naval Service

they had a chance of securing the training that would fit them for commissions in the navy; and I cannot conceive how the Government can escape from a certain responsibility by reason of failure to realize these plans. I am acquainted with some of these young men—one belongs to my own constituency—bright lads who would be a credit to the navy. Yet they are now deprived of the careers upon which they had entered although they have spent two or three years studying at the naval college. In view of the time so spent I do not think they are in a position to enter a university from the naval college. The training they have received would be of service in a science course in the university, but I do not think it would be of material use in classics. I therefore want to ask the Government if they have fully taken into consideration any scheme whereby justice can be done to the lads referred to.

Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (Minister of the Naval Service): The matter of the Royal Naval College at Esquimalt was one of the difficulties of the situation, which confronted the Government, and I am going to explain it frankly to the House. My hon. friend has asked me if any care or thought has been given to the students who are in course of training at the college or have graduated from it. Some of the students who have graduated have gone to other universities. The Naval Department made arrangements previously that students from the naval college could enter the universities either of Queen's, Toronto, or McGill before completing their second year. We are now endeavouring to ascertain if arrangements can be made with the universities so that those who have attained their second year in the naval college may be given matriculation standing in those institutions. As to the school itself it is a remarkable institution, there is no question about that, but for the last two years only four students each year have gone from it to finish their training in the Royal navy. Even if there had not been any change in the system no graduate would have gone this year from the naval college to the Royal navy, so that, so far as opportunities of service to the country from that college are concerned, they have come to an end, at least for some years. At the present time we have in the Royal navy some forty young men and Canada is paying for their training which will take some years to complete.

[Mr. MacKelvie (Yale).]

The Government intends, under its scheme, to allow those young officers to finish their training as was anticipated. The cost of that training alone for the coming year is estimated at \$73,000. As I said before, no graduate from that naval college can find entry into the Royal navy for training; we have come to a blockade in that regard. I therefore ask the committee, in all fairness, of what use is it to the young man that he should be allowed to continue his naval course when at the end of the term of three years there would be no place to which he could go?—it would not be fair to him, and would not be fair to the country.

Now let me point out what the naval college is—and as I said before it is a wonderful school of training. The young men there are being trained ostensibly for a naval career, but that career, no matter what policy is adopted by Parliament, so far as the navy is concerned does not exist for the present. The committee can readily understand that while the British navy will probably retain all the officers we have there in training and for whom we are paying, there is no great career ahead in the Royal navy when that navy at the present time is dismissing its officers day by day and cutting down its staff. There are forty-two students at the naval college; but so far as conditions are concerned we cannot compare the present with the past. It will be found as the days go by that the taxation that may be imposed on the people of Canada is all that they can stand. I want to emphasize that: The taxation that the Canadian people will have to bear is all that they can stand; and wherever the country is not getting what it believes to be value for money expended, that expenditure ought to be dispensed with. Nobody can accuse me of not being in favour of such institutions as the naval college because I am. But if we are not going to get any value for the country, and if there is no career for the young men that we are sending to the naval college, why keep up this expense merely for sentiment?

Now, let me give a little statement as to conditions in connection with the Royal Naval College. The cost of that college is \$175,000 per annum the number of cadets at present at the college is 42; and the cost of training each cadet for three years is \$12,000.

Mr. CRERAR: The cost of training each cadet?