

Supply—National Defence

it with the department, and that is because there is a great deal of information asked for by the units from time to time which can perhaps be better supplied under our auspices than when it goes to the archives.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Then there is no decision as to the pay corps, the historical section, and the military records branch?

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend is right so far as the historical section is concerned. So far as the pay corps is concerned, it has been decided that it shall be under the chief accountant for purposes of administration.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): The minister must know that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction because it was decided at one time that a certain policy was going to be adopted; but something happened between then and the present time to stop it. I think the minister should submit a statement to the house with regard to these matters rather than allow the information to leak out to members of the house in an underground way. There were some other matters that I wished to take up, but I do not wish to delay the committee. There were matters in connection with the Royal Military College. The minister knows what they are. I am not dropping these things. I shall not take up time to deal with them now, but I shall follow them up later.

Mr. BENNETT: I have to ask the minister's attention to one matter. He will recall that tenders were asked for the construction of beacons on the airway between Calgary and Winnipeg. The specifications and the plans apparently were taken from the American government's specifications. I hold in my hand a copy of the plans. I think it is very bad practice that there should appear on the plans these words: "Department of Commerce, Airways Division, Serial No...." A blank is left for the serial number, and a blank for the name of the manufacturer. Then come the words, "Department of Commerce, U.S. Airways." The specifications call for inspection by the representative of the bureau of lighthouses, and tanks must receive the initial test in his presence. The contractor shall furnish without cost to the United States complete facilities including all necessary labour, instruments, tools, and so forth, for the inspection of all material and workmanship. On the strength of these specifications certain Canadians tendered for that work, and they based their prices upon the cost of securing from local manufacturers in Winnipeg, namely, the Vulcan Iron Works, tanks that would meet with the specifications.

[Mr. Ralston.]

Mr. RALSTON: Would my hon. friend read the details as to the tanks?

Mr. BENNETT: I was endeavouring not to take up too much time. I will read the memorandum:

Specifications for gasoline storage tanks of approximately 515 gallons capacity.

Kerosene or gasoline storage tanks of approximately 515 gallon capacity suitable for installing above ground complete with a 6 inch channel and screen vent header and as shown on sketch No. 40 attached.

That is a reproduction of the American sketch.

Tanks shall be approximately 48 inches diameter by 66 inches long with bumped heads $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick, and shall be $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick with all seams electrically welded and tested to 30 pounds per square inch air pressure, at which pressure the tank shall be air tight. Longitudinal seams shall be riveted, also tanks shall conform to the specifications of the national Board of Fire Underwriters.

That is an American organization. The closing words are these:

Workmanship shall be first class. All welding shall be of high quality, free from cracks, pin holes, porousness, burns, etc. In no case will the sealing of cracks, by peening, be permitted. Flaws in welding may be sealed only by rewelding and then at the option of the inspector.

Inspection will be made at the contractor's works by a representative of the Bureau of Lighthouses and tanks shall receive the initial test in his presence. The contractor shall furnish without cost to United States complete facilities including all necessary labour, instruments, tools, etc., for the inspection of all material and workmanship.

Bidders will state approximate shipping weight per tank in pounds.

Now the tanks in situ are tanks which it is submitted by those who have inspected them are not tanks answering to this specification. They have not been inspected by any person representing the inspecting authority mentioned, and they were produced by local manufacturers at about \$40 per tank, whereas the lowest price quoted by the Vulcan Iron Works on this class of tank was \$120. As a result the job went to other tenderers—which might well be of course in any case—than to the tenderers who complained.

Mr. RALSTON: Other than the Vulcan Iron Works?

Mr. BENNETT: They were producing only this part; they were not tendering for the whole work. The sketches and plans are wholly of American preparation, and they look to me to be merely plans photographed from American plans prepared for other purposes. I hand these to the minister.

I think this is a very important matter, and in connection with it I want to put this con-