

to Ottawa or closed, would the minister be kind enough to assure us that this laboratory will be continued in Montreal because it is very useful to the farmers of the province of Quebec.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): There is no intention to move this laboratory from Montreal to Ottawa.

Item agreed to.

To provide for gratuities to former members of the pension tribunal and the federal appeal board, subject to allocation by the treasury board, \$100,000.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I notice this is to provide for gratuities to former members of the pension tribunal and the federal appeal board, subject to allocation by the treasury board. In the last pensions committee of which I have the honour to be a member I took a very strong view in regard to what would happen to the rest of the staff. I notice that the former members of the pension tribunal and the federal appeal board are receiving consideration and I would ask if some consideration is not to be given to the members of the staff who were not fortunate enough to be in the higher categories.

Mr. BENNETT: The whole matter has received very careful consideration and the language of the privy council judgment in the Reilly case is the basis of this item. It is not probable that the whole of this item will be used but the suggestion on the other hand is that owing to the action taken by parliament there should be some compensation given to those who had an appointment for a given length of time and were deprived of it by the statute. The hon. gentleman has seen the judgment and realizes that it is the basis of this item.

Item agreed to.

Royal Canadian Air Force—

Further amount required, \$125,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: On May 22 I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) if any undertaking had been given by the Canadian government to the British government with regard generally to an empire defence policy and with regard particularly to aviation, and the Prime Minister replied, "The answer is no." I notice that a few days ago with regard to the breaking up of the disarmament conference Lord Londonderry said:

His Majesty's government therefore have decided they can no longer delay the steps that are necessary to provide adequately for the air defence of these shores.

He went on to say that there was the closest relationship as regards personnel between the air force and the sister services in the dominion; that exchanges of junior officers operated at present with Canada and Australia, and that both Canada and Australia maintain liaison officials in London who "had full access to all the information at the air ministry which might be of assistance to their respective governments." In view of the recent decision of the Secretary of State for air to increase the air force of Great Britain I would ask the Prime Minister if any commitments have been arrived at between this dominion and the motherland with regard to air defence.

Mr. BENNETT: No commitments have been made, but the statement made by Lord Londonderry is an absolutely accurate statement as I understand it. The great facilities and the wide knowledge and experience of the British air force have been made available for Canadians through the means he mentions, and our officers have been constantly in communication with the British air force and learning from them everything they were possessed of in the way of knowledge and information.

I should like to say, however, that we are engaged in looking very carefully into the question of the transport of mails in which it is obvious that both the British and Canadian governments have a very close and allied interest. The movement of mails from the northern part of Great Britain and Ireland to Newfoundland, and from Newfoundland across the northern half of this continent and thence to China and Japan, is a matter that has been engaging the attention of the officials of the air force for many months. I heard a very distinguished air man say in Great Britain a few months ago that he believed within the next five years there would be a regular air service. But the question to which the hon. gentleman is directing attention is not a question that has been the subject matter of discussion or arrangement further than what has been carried on in the past few years since we have been afforded the opportunity of securing training and an exchange of officers in the navy, the army, and the air.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The construction of landing fields to which I made reference a year or so ago has no definite significance?

Mr. BENNETT: It has definite significance, of course, as regards civil aviation, and I need hardly say to the hon. gentleman that such fields will always be available if the