

*War Appropriation*

Mr. GRAYDON: In connection with these applications for enlistment, if a man enlists for any particular branch of the service and is rejected, is a button issued by virtue of that application, or does it have to be a general enlistment?

Mr. RALSTON: If he is rejected by the army, that is sufficient. He must have a rejection from the army before he gets the applicant for enlistment button.

Mr. GRAYDON: Could the minister also give the committee some information with respect to the army train which is going across Canada at the moment, as to how long it has been in operation, and as to the personnel accompanying that train across the country?

Mr. RALSTON: It started on February 3 and, as I remember it, went first to central Canada, then east, and then west. I think it is due back very soon now. As to the personnel, Lieutenant-Colonel McKenna is in command, and the staff were selected by him in conjunction with the recruiting branch, or the adjutant-general's branch. This personnel were changed in the various parts of the country to which the train went. When the train was in the west, personnel from the west were put on the train, and in central and eastern Canada personnel from those territories accompanied the train.

Mr. GRAYDON: Was the purpose of the train to stimulate recruiting?

Mr. RALSTON: To stimulate recruiting and interest in the army. It was simply taking the army to Canadians at a time when we could not have demonstrations which would bring Canadians to the army. As the hon. gentleman knows, from time to time people have asked for armoured demonstrations. We have had detachments go to various places and give these demonstrations, but that could not be done in the winter. So it was suggested that we should use the railway instead of using the roads. In addition, I believe one car was devoted to the victory loan campaign, and part of one car to the Red Cross as well.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I should like to ask a question as a matter of information, because I have received a great many wires and complaints about it. Who advised the stops that were made in British Columbia?

Mr. RALSTON: I cannot tell my hon. friend that, but, as far as I know, I do not believe there was anyone in this house who did not advise stops. As a matter of fact, the adjutant-general tells me that a real endeavour was made to have stops at all

[Mr. Ralston.]

places possible, where there might be interest shown. He says further that one factor which governed was the physical factor, that is, the length of the railway sidings at the various points, which decided whether or not the train could be accommodated there. So the railways had to be consulted in deciding where the stops should be made.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): Would the minister be kind enough after the dinner recess, or at some other convenient time, to make a general statement in connection with the recommendations brought in last year with regard to an interdepartmental committee functioning as between the different branches of the service, and so on? I think the minister knows to what I refer.

Mr. BENICE: There are two points I should like to clear up. The first is whether or not men in category C1 are being called up under the national mobilization regulations. The second is in connection with the buttons that were referred to by the hon. member for Peel. My understanding is that men in categories D and E are given these buttons but that men in category C1 do not receive them, though C1 men are being turned down for active service. In view of that fact I should like the minister to explain why these men are not entitled to buttons.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend may not think it is a good reason, but the adjutant-general tells me that the man in category E is the only man who is almost definitely out. An E-category man may improve, but there is very little chance of it. There is much more chance that a C-category man may improve, and so far the button has not been issued to men in C category, because the time may come when they may be eligible for enlistment.

Mr. BENICE: By virtue of the medical qualifications being reduced?

Mr. RALSTON: By virtue of a change in their category. However, the matter is still under advisement.

Mr. BENICE: But that man is required to sign an undertaking that if the class in which he is placed eventually comes within the category of men eligible for active service, he will submit himself for further examination. So there is no reason why a C1 man should not be given a button.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend is quite right, and it even goes further than that. As a matter of fact, the regulations under which the badges are issued provide that there is a right to recall the badge itself if subsequently the category in which the applicant