

Civil government air operations — for preventive service and other air operations, \$408,300.

Mr. GREEN: What is meant by preventive service?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That has reference to the work done by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in connection with customs duties, rum-running, smuggling and any operations of that sort.

Mr. HEAPS: Do these people come under the control of the mounted police or are they under the Department of National Defence?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The actual operations are carried out by this branch of the Department of National Defence. Naturally requests come from various other departments; they estimate every year the necessities for the year and we proceed to carry out their requests as best we can.

Mr. HEAPS: What is the permanent number of airplanes employed by the department for this particular service?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): If my memory is correct, it is twenty-nine out of a total of 173 employed more or less for civil government air operations. We have a departmental committee consisting of some of the deputy ministers dealing with one of these items, and every year they make a recommendation to whoever is the minister, as to the amount necessary for service in the north. For the present year \$100,000 was their recommendation for aerial surveys and their advice is generally acted upon, because they review the necessities in regard to surveys in the northern country, and that item is carried under this particular vote.

Mr. HEAPS: What does my hon. friend mean by "surveys"?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Topographic surveys mostly.

Mr. HEAPS: Do the mounted police force undertake topographic surveys?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): No. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is only one of the five departments of government which use these surveys. Another is the Department of Indian Affairs. The Department of Public Works used them for the transportation of personnel surveying the otherwise inaccessible portions of the northern country. As I say, I think these surveys are used by five departments of government. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police asked for \$50,000 of this total vote.

Mr. HEAPS: Reverting to a certain extent to a previous item, may I ask the minister if he can give the committee the number of the personnel in the permanent force, the number in the non-permanent force, and the number of planes in both services?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The Royal Canadian Air Force: in the permanent force, 147 officers, 884 men, total 1,031; in the non-permanent force, fifty-two officers and 289 men, or a total of 341. That is, as of the 31st March of the present year.

Mr. HEAPS: I understand that quite a large number of these men are not employed in aviation. They may be employed, for instance, in the stores, or what may be called ground work.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That is correct.

Mr. HEAPS: Could the minister give the committee the number of qualified airmen in the service of the government, both in the permanent and the non-permanent forces?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Generally speaking, the greater part of the numbers mentioned by me in reply to the hon. member are qualified as airmen, although my hon. friend is correct in saying that some of them are employed in ground service. In fact most of the other ranks are so employed. The officers are thoroughly qualified, and from time to time the men employed in either service go through periods of training. Speaking generally, possibly two-thirds have some air qualifications.

Mr. HEAPS: Do I understand from what the minister said that two-thirds of the men referred to in the figures he gave a few moments ago are qualified air pilots?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Not qualified air pilots, but they have had some flying experience. Probably fifty per cent would be a more reasonable estimate.

Mr. GREEN: Is any provision made in these estimates for the establishment of a transatlantic or transpacific air service?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That comes up under the next item, civil aviation, and can be discussed then.

Mr. STIRLING: I think the inspectors placed about Canada come under this vote, do they not?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Next vote.

Mr. STIRLING: Not under civil government?