

justified in raising any hopes, but I certainly will see that it is discussed with the Minister of Labour, the Minister of National War Services, and the director of national selective service, because I appreciate what has been said and the interest which these young people have in the matter.

The hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough mentioned the syllabus, particularly the firing syllabus, at Camp Borden. My instruction is that it is not a paper syllabus and that these rounds are fired. I rather gathered from what he said that he had some information that they were not being fired. As a matter of fact, the chief of the general staff has been at Camp Borden this week, going through all these training centres—by the way, with Brigadier Weeks, in charge of training. I shall certainly see to it that the objective is met, and that the number of rounds are fired—I do not say the exact number of fifty-six or thirty-two, but what are necessary in order to make these men familiar with their weapons.

My hon. friend said something to the effect, if I understood him aright, that the only time a man had a Lee-Enfield in his hand was when he fired. That is not so, at the advanced training centres.

Mr. WHITE: I remember that a week or two ago I asked the minister about the number of rifles at Camp Borden, and I think he then admitted there were not sufficient for each man. I know that every soldier there does not have a Lee-Enfield. They have a great many Ross rifles that do not have bolts.

Mr. RALSTON: The hon. member is talking about a basic training centre?

Mr. WHITE: Does the minister mean that every recruit in an advanced training centre has a Lee-Enfield rifle?

Mr. RALSTON: No, I did not say "every-one," but I know there are a very considerable number, and I am quite satisfied that it is not only just in firing that the man at the advanced training centre has an opportunity of handling the rifle.

Mr. WHITE: Is the recruit taught his musketry on a Lee-Enfield rifle?

Mr. RALSTON: Is the hon. member talking about basic?

Mr. WHITE: We will take the advanced. I think the minister said there were no Lee-Enfields on basic.

Mr. RALSTON: Oh, there are plenty of Lee-Enfields on basic. I was disputing with the hon. friend for York West the other day

with regard to Ross rifles. He was suggesting that there are a great number of Ross rifles at basic training centres. I find that at perhaps one-fourth of the basic training centres there are Ross rifles, but at the rest there are Lee-Enfields, that is the .30s. There are enough at a great many of the basic training centres to give training to practically every man. The Lee-Enfield is used in all but about nine of the thirty-seven training centres.

Mr. STIRLING: But besides that, there are Springfields in a number of them, are there not?

Mr. RALSTON: I called them Lee-Enfields; I meant the Springfields. The .30 rifle is a Springfield. I understand that these rifles are at all of the basic training centres excepting nine. My hon. friend asked me if I said that there is a rifle for each man. There is not a rifle for each man at the advanced training centres, and my hon. friend will realize that probably it is not necessary that there should be. But I should be happy to show him these figures, and I am sure he would be quite reassured to learn how many rifles there are. I am sure there are plenty to enable every man to have not only an opportunity to handle them when firing but to handle them at regular musketry work.

Mr. MAYHEW: There are a few matters upon which I should like to get some information which would be of some encouragement to the people of British Columbia, particularly those on Vancouver island.

The minister during the Easter recess spent a week on the coast—and I assure the committee it was a very busy week—visiting the different army quarters, conferring with the officers and the staff. I am sure there was not very much that he left out. Nevertheless I want to bring a couple of points to his attention.

We on the Pacific coast are satisfied that in the four-man command which has been set up we have four excellent men. We have confidence in their judgment, and we believe that they are attentive to their duties. We should like to feel, however, that the recommendations which are made by the men in the field are carried out as far as it is possible for Ottawa to do so. Occasionally we hear from a man who has recently been discharged—those who are still in the army do not complain to one like myself—that if Ottawa would carry out the recommendations given by the senior officers on the coast we would have much better protection.

I know that the protection upon the Pacific coast has greatly increased since December.