

*Supply—National Defence*

quite successful in the city of St. John's as he will recall—has been receiving similar representations from his colleague in the cabinet from Newfoundland, and that his colleague will be successful in giving quarters to the Newfoundland regiment which I am sure the minister thinks they have every right to have.

Then it has been drawn to my attention that facilities ought to be provided by the department in Gander for the militia. Gander is not precisely in my constituency. It is five miles away. It is in the constituency of my friend the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador who intended to make this appeal himself. However, he understood that we were not going to be on the estimates between five o'clock and six o'clock and he is carrying out another engagement at the moment. In making this appeal with respect to Gander I am speaking on his behalf even more than on my own, although in my constituency there are people who would be interested in having these facilities provided in Gander.

As the minister knows, Gander is a growing community. It is a community in which, by the nature of its population, it seems to me it would be a great encouragement if something of this sort could be provided. I observe that my friend the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo has just taken his seat in the chamber. I am sure he would say something in support of this appeal because I know he has some knowledge of the need for good accommodation for the militia in Newfoundland, both at St. John's and at Gander.

**Mr. Pearkes:** I have visited both the units referred to in St. John's and in Gander. I regret to say that in the estimates this year there is no item for an armoury at either place. At St. John's they train in the area in a drill hall there and have other accommodation provided which, while it may not be considered ideal, is adequate for the moment. In Gander they are occupying temporary quarters provided, I think, by the Department of Transport.

**Mr. Carter:** May I ask the minister this question? Has land not already been acquired in St. John's for an armoury?

**Mr. Pearkes:** I believe land has been acquired in St. John's but in this year's estimates there is no provision for the construction of the building.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I should like to say just a word on that matter. The minister will, of course, have been in the house from time to time when we have had discussions about the state of employment and he will undoubtedly be aware of the rather markedly

heavier incidence of unemployment in the Atlantic provinces—particularly in the province of Newfoundland—than in other parts of the country. I was hoping that perhaps the minister might get a certain amount of sympathy from some of his colleagues if he took this aspect of things into account as well as the purely military aspect in relation particularly to the situation in St. John's and Gander.

**Mr. Carter:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to add my words of support to what my colleague from Bonavista-Twillingate has said respecting the need for an armoury at St. John's. We have the Newfoundland regiment, which is a very proud regiment with a very old tradition, and it does not have proper accommodation for its requirements. Newfoundland is the only province in Canada, I believe, which has not been provided with an armoury and proper facilities.

With respect to the employment picture, I have just looked at one of our latest papers in the reading room and there was an article to the effect that we still have 40,000 people out of work. Approximately 10 per cent of our population is still out of work, and here we are well advanced into 1959. That points to the need for a works program particularly during the winter months, and I do hope the minister will be able to persuade his colleagues that this would be a very worthy project to undertake this winter.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, there was one other question I forgot to put with regard to Newfoundland. Could the minister say whether there are any army establishments in any part of Labrador?

**Mr. Pearkes:** I do not think there are any army establishments owned by the Department of National Defence there, but there may be some rented buildings.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The R.C.A.F. is the only part of the forces at Goose Bay?

**Mr. Pearkes:** That is correct.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Would the minister tell us if the Toronto University avenue armouries, the long time and proud home of the great Toronto regiments and units, has been disposed of?

**Mr. Pearkes:** Arrangements have been made with the city of Toronto for those armouries to be vacated by December, 1960. Other armouries will be constructed to accommodate the units, the idea being to move those units from the central part of Toronto and to disperse them into the suburbs and residential areas of Toronto so that they will be available for recruiting purposes, training purposes and also more likely to be out of