

allowance and subsistence allowance amount to \$157,000,000, making a total of \$539,000,000. There is one thing I wish to mention in connection with dependents' allowance. I have been expecting someone to ask how it comes about that there is an increase over last year in connection with dependents' allowance, pay and subsistence allowance. I think the increases amount to something like \$45,000,000. The balance is arrived at on an average basis, because you cannot tell what will be the strength of the army; that is to say, reinforcements will go up; they will come down again; then they will go up, and so on. The balance is calculated on an average number during the year; I think they average it from month to month, or something like that. I am sure there is not a firm figure which is used by those who make estimates, for the purpose of just saying that we have an average of so many men and that therefore the cost is \$539,000,000. It is broken down into officers, other ranks, trades pay, uniform allowance, dependents' allowance and subsistence allowance.

Mr. GREEN: Would it be fair to say that it costs a thousand dollars per man per year?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes; that would be an average, taking in, of course, everybody, officers and all.

Mr. GREEN: That is only for pay and allowances. In addition, of course, we have the upkeep of the men and equipment.

Mr. RALSTON: And accommodation, food and clothing.

Mr. GREEN: Yes. The minister said yesterday that there are in Canada 68,228 home defence troops and "R"-recruits, who of course are really home defence troops. So that one would not be unreasonable in calculating that the cost to Canada of the home defence army, for pay and allowances alone, would be at least \$1,000 per man, which would make a total of over \$68,000,000 per year. Is there anything unfair in that conclusion?

Mr. RALSTON: I would not think so. I would not think that would be an unfair inference.

Mr. GREEN: Can the minister tell us approximately how many home defence men will be required per month during the present fiscal year, and also at what total he places the requirement for home defence men? My point is this, that sooner or later we shall have all the home defence men we need, for we can use only a certain number. Can the minister tell us whether or not the government has decided what number will be needed eventually?

Mr. RALSTON: No. What I can say to my hon. friend is that I prefer to put it on the basis on which I put it when I made my statement, namely, that we calculate that one hundred thousand men will be required altogether.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Is that general service men?

Mr. RALSTON: That is one hundred thousand men altogether. You see, if home defence personnel come in they would be used to replace general service men; and that, as I indicated, is a figure which cannot be absolutely accurate. It is maintenance more than anything else, and it will depend upon what may be the developments of the year. I can only say that the number of home defence men depends upon the number of general service men.

Mr. GREEN: I understood the minister to say that of the one hundred thousand there would be about twenty-five thousand home defence men.

Mr. RALSTON: Yes; I estimated that the twenty-five thousand would be required for service in Canada. If they are general service men, then you do not need the home defence men; that is about the sum of it.

Mr. GREEN: Will there not be some final figure above which no more home defence troops will be required? Has the government not some idea of what that figure will be?

Mr. RALSTON: I do not think I can give my hon. friend any idea as to that because, as I say, it will depend upon the number of men who are required in order to do home defence duty and release general service men, and that will depend upon enlistments.

Mr. GREEN: When we have released from Canada all the fit general service personnel, there will come a time, surely, when no more home defence men will be required. Has the government any idea of what that figure will be?

Mr. RALSTON: There might come a time also, I suppose, when no more enlistments would be required. I do not think I can make it any more definite than that we require one hundred thousand men; I say that is the estimate for the year, and the more general service men, the fewer home defence men.

Mr. GREEN: But the minister said that the number of men in Canada during the coming fiscal year would be reduced from 250,000 at least to 235,000. Many of the general service men are not fit to be sent