

investigate further the camp at Mohawk, and I think that will meet the approval of those most interested.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I am not going to discuss whether Camp Borden is suitable or not. I wish to consider this question from the point of view of economy. I think the minister, before the item goes through, should and must make a further statement in regard to this selection. It has always been considered that the camp near Deseronto was an ideal air force camp. Until within a few short weeks it was practically accepted as the site for the new camp. Here is a camp that has been tried, where there has been service and training, and it has proved absolutely satisfactory to everybody, and to my knowledge satisfactory to the whole area. But now within the last few weeks a new site has been selected. I think the house should know the reason why such a change has been made.

It must be accepted that Mohawk camp is absolutely acceptable both from past experience, and according to the advice of the technical officials in the department. I have spoken with them and I know that it is absolutely acceptable to them. I have no interest in the removal of the camp from Camp Borden to any other place, except from the point of view of economy, but I have felt that if any change was to be made, no better place could be selected than Camp Mohawk.

I want the house and the committee to realize that we have at Camp Mohawk today all the water supply ready for use. That means a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Are you going to scrap Camp Borden with all the expenditure that you have made there, and are you going to scrap Camp Mohawk with all the expenditure that has been made at that place? I have seen a letter to the effect that it had been practically decided to make Camp Borden the permanent camp. Neither of these two sites, Camp Mohawk and Camp Trenton, is in my constituency, but both are a short distance away, and I do say that when several hundred dollars can be saved in the selection of a site, we should insist upon saving that money. I think it is up to the minister to explain this sudden change of location. Not only that, but there are numerous cement bases at Camp Mohawk all ready, which with a very little expenditure could be enlarged and made suitable as buildings. The camp was actually used during the war and has been used ever since, and it has proved acceptable to all parties. I will

guarantee that it is acceptable to the technical officers of the department, and that they consider it preferable to moving to a site that was never formerly considered by anybody. You have these two sites on the same body of water. Training, I believe, can be done under more favourable conditions at Camp Mohawk, where you have a well protected site. It has always been a training ground. Before the selection of Petawawa camp, Deseronto artillery camp was the only training camp in Canada. Here is a camp fixed up with a water supply ready for use, with concrete bases that can be made use of. I have no doubt that the technical men might say that these concrete bases would not be acceptable. I know both grounds and I want to know what are the advantages of this new camp pointed out by the technical men. Never mind the feeling of the people of these two towns; it is the country and economy that we are interested in. Surely there cannot be so much difference between two places only fifty or sixty miles apart that we must suddenly scrap hundreds of thousands of dollars and start a new camp. I want to know what are the advantages of this training camp before I will vote for it.

Mr. RALSTON: I think my hon. friend might be satisfied with what I suggested, that I am perfectly willing, and have so told the deputation from Deseronto, to go into the matter further with the object of making absolutely sure as to the relative advantages of these two places. I can give my hon. friend in detail what the technical officers represent as the advantages, but after all it seems to me, having given my hon. friend that assurance, he might be reasonably satisfied. I can assure him that there has been no change in the last few weeks. Trenton was first discussed by the officers in July, 1928, and I have here a list of no less than a dozen technical officers of the department, including the engineers, all of whom favour Trenton, but at the same time in view of the fact that the deputation came to me with such strong representations, I undertook to make further investigation to see if any of the paramount features, which Deseronto alleged, had been overlooked. I hope my hon. friend will accept that. Our only idea is to find the very best site, having in view the interests of the service and nothing else.

Mr. MANION: What would be the objection to leaving Camp Borden where it is to be used by the land air forces, and establishing at Trenton a camp for the water air forces? I understand that in the United