

Supply—National Defence

would probably be 20,000. I would point out that that might leave a most misleading impression—and I do not mean intentionally. It might mislead members as to the number of rifles which would be required. Three divisions do not require 20,000 rifles: three divisions require a great many more than that, if those three divisions are going to be in the field.

The minister shakes his head, but I point out that for every man who is in a serving unit there are a great many men training, and that those men in training need the same type of equipment, if they are to produce satisfactory results.

Mr. Claxton: Quite right.

Mr. Drew: If you are going to have 20,000 rifle strength in three divisions—and I grant it might be debatable as to what the exact amount would be—I should think a minimum of 100,000 rifles would be required, and probably more.

As the minister has already said, we had in excess of half a million rifles in this country after the end of the war. While we had three divisions in formations, we had at the most five divisions overseas. That gives some indication as to the number of rifles required in relation to the actual operational strength. So I suggest we should not in any way have our minds fixed on a figure of the rifles actually needed for the divisions, but on the total number that would be required for an integrated training program which would be capable of producing those divisions in the field.

I did ask a question which apparently escaped the minister's mind when he turned to the statement he made in regard to rifles. I asked what was being produced in the way of military equipment at the small arms arsenal in Toronto at the present time. The minister did say that the Minister of Defence Production could give that figure; but I am sure he could tell us whether they are making service rifles or Sten guns.

Mr. Claxton: No service rifles; no Sten guns. We have lots of them.

Mr. Drew: Without attempting to give exact numbers, would the minister say whether they are making service rifles, machine guns, sub-machine guns, or any weapons of that kind, including mortars, anti-tank rifles or anything of that nature, at the arsenal?

Mr. Claxton: I do not think so. I doubt it very much. But that is a question for the Minister of Defence Production to answer. Except for mortars, and two or three types of weapons which are very new, we have ample

[Mr. Drew.]

stocks to meet all our needs. What is going on is mostly by way of modification.

The Deputy Chairman: I would remind the committee that we are considering civil salaries and wages.

Mr. Pearkes: Regarding inspection services, which come under the civil service, I notice that in the annual report it states that inspection services contain well-equipped laboratories. Are they different from the laboratories maintained by the defence research and development board?

Mr. Claxton: Yes.

Mr. Pearkes: And which are completely separate. Is there any overlapping there?

Mr. Claxton: None at all. But defence research will be brought in by inspection services to advise them as to a particular method of testing, or a new technique or new equipment. But most of the laboratories which are used by inspection services are for the testing of leather, metals, clothing, electronic equipment, et cetera, to make sure that their performances and standards are adequate. They are not for the purpose of research.

Mr. Pearkes: Are there any of these inspectors, in those laboratories or elsewhere, considering the manufacture or the methods of inspection required in connection with, let us say, rimless ammunition? They would have to go out of the country to do that, no doubt.

Mr. Claxton: All the people engaged in defence are in consultation with each other, through interlocking directorates and committees. But the job of inspection services is primarily to make sure that articles supplied by manufacturers, on orders from the Department of Defence Production, meet specifications. If they find that the method of production is uneconomic they will report back.

Mr. Pearkes: Do they carry out any inspection work in the United States at factories making material which we might make very shortly? What I am trying to get at is this: if we are likely to adopt this rifle, is not the time now ripe for these inspectors who would have to give the advice to be down there, finding out how these rifles are made, and finding out how the ammunition is made?

Mr. Claxton: That would not be done by inspection services. That would be done by defence research, working together with the proper personnel of the armed service concerned. We have teams in the United States watching the development of their weapons,