

Supply—National Defence

I would point out that in addition to the camps I have already mentioned there are two camps which are perhaps the most historic and best known in connection with the provision of forces for the Canadian army in two world wars, and which I have not yet mentioned. I refer to Valcartier and Petawawa. Both these camps are very large by any standard, and it would seem strange indeed that in the case of Petawawa, as an example, adequate land could not be found in the adjoining area to provide whatever was necessary for purposes of training or manoeuvre. In fact it would seem that in the case of Petawawa the government might well have available one of the most remarkable training areas in the world because the provision of an added camp area on the Quebec side of the river would give the space required, and the camp would provide not only the artillery and armoured training facilities it now possesses but also immediate access to facilities for amphibious training of the very highest order.

In the case of Valcartier, with its great historic traditions, it would certainly be possible in that area to find further territory to give the required training space. I have not attempted to mention all the camps available in Canada, but the picture that is in the minds of most hon. members when the name of any one of these larger camps is mentioned must suggest that it would be a very strange thing if we could not train a brigade when the United Kingdom finds it possible to train many divisions with camps very much smaller than a number of those to which I have referred. I should think that in this country the decision should be made that training will be carried out here not only so that Canadian camps may be available for Canadian training purposes but also so that our own men, in this country of such immense variety and change in topography, would be ready for such service as they might be called upon to perform in any part of the world.

It is rather interesting that Great Britain should have sent a great number of men on different occasions to train in this country, and that we should find it difficult to provide adequate training for our own purposes. Many people will recall, for instance, that the famous Lovat scouts were sent over here to train near Jasper, and that other special units have been trained with great success in this country. I leave that question before the members in the hope that some of them at any rate will be impressed with the fact that one of the reasons given for not being able to proceed with training

in Canada should not be the suggestion that we have not the space already available here.

Let me refer to another point made by the minister yesterday. He spoke of the fact that modification of the original plans for the production of military vehicles had been necessary, and that this was going to be done with a recognition of the fact that some of these vehicles, and certain parts thereof, could best be turned out in the United States. I should think there would be little tendency to take issue with that statement in regard to certain parts of our requirements, but I do suggest that here again the time is long overdue for such a decision to have been made if we are to accept the statements of the government last year as well as this in support of the very large appropriations which this house is being asked to vote.

Then we are told by the minister that it will be late this autumn before the first of Canada's new anti-submarine escort vessels is launched, and that it will be a considerable time longer before they are all at sea. Hon. members who have had contact with matters of this kind will recognize that specialists on the machines, the weapons and certain of the very intricate apparatus need to be trained for a very long time before they can handle this highly specialized equipment. Long before these ships are available the men who will handle the radar installations, the various submarine detection devices and the very delicate and intricate mechanism of the ship itself should be in training so they can be placed on board and put the ships into active operation as soon as they are completed.

Then may I refer to the statement by the minister in regard to the aircraft carrier *Magnificent*, in reply to the statement by the hon. member for Nanaimo that the *Magnificent* is obsolete. The minister does not say the description given by the hon. member for Nanaimo does not apply in any way. What he does say is that she has three or four years of useful life.

Mr. Claxton: If I said that, Mr Chairman, I did not say enough. I should have said "without modification", because the *Magnificent* and ships like her have many more years than that of useful life, but after modification. I would not like it to be represented that ships of that class are obsolete in three years.

Mr. Drew: Then does the minister agree that they are obsolete without modification?

Mr. Claxton: No; they are adequate for the job for which they were intended, and to