

on operations for departments such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Public Works department, the Department of Indian Affairs, and the transportation of personnel making surveys in the northern parts of Canada; and third, there is civil aviation, which will be transferred, by a resolution now before the house, from the Defence department to the Transport department.

Mr. GREEN: Is it not a fact that very little of the time of the air force is spent in fighting training? They are really doing work that could be done by civil aviation, and that might promote the development of civil aviation.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That is true to some extent only. A large part of the training of the Royal Canadian Air Force is in flying hours, in the control of machines, and in the survey of territory, and that can be done either in serving the military side of the force or in connection with civil aviation. The same amount of training applies in both directions, and that is being carried out.

Mr. GREEN: Will this vote provide for an increase in the personnel of the permanent air force?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Yes, four officers and forty-four men in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Mr. GREEN: That is to be the total increase?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Yes. Last year there was an increase for which sufficient provision was not made in the estimates a year ago. There is a carryover from that amount, and that added to the new personnel accounts for a considerable amount of the vote.

Mr. GREEN: What is the strength now of the non-permanent air force? Will this vote provide for any increase?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): There are fifty-two officers and two hundred and eighty-nine other ranks, or a total of three hundred and forty-one, as at March 31 of this year.

Mr. GREEN: Will there be an increase by reason of this vote?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The item of pay and allowances in this vote includes two additional airmen of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who are attached to the non-permanent air force, and two days' additional training of the non-permanent air force is provided for three squadrons. The figure is less by \$19,800.

[Mr. I. Mackenzie.]

Mr. GREEN: How many non-permanent squadrons are there, and have there been requests for more?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): We have No. 10 squadron, Toronto; No. 11 squadron, Vancouver; No. 12 squadron, Winnipeg; all army cooperation squadrons; No. 15 fighting squadron, Montreal; No. 18 bomber squadron, Montreal; No. 19 bomber squadron, Hamilton. There is a total of fifty-one officers and two hundred and ninety-one airmen as of April 30, 1936.

Mr. GREEN: Have there been requests from different cities for more squadrons.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Yes, requests are coming in from time to time.

Mr. GREEN: How many have there been?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): In the short time I have been in the department there have been repeated requests.

Mr. GREEN: Is any provision being made to guard an empire air route that might traverse Canada?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Does my hon. friend mean the guarding of a civil aviation air route?

Mr. GREEN: I mean provision for an air force that could guard an air route across Canada. We hope some day to have an empire air route passing over Canada and we should surely provide some air defence for it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I may tell my hon. friend frankly that that has not come before me as a matter of policy. I think, however, that the primary policy of any ministry of defence which may be in office must be with regard to the actual defence of our Canadian coasts, either for protection of neutrality or for any other necessary purpose. The matter suggested by the hon. gentleman has not come before me as one of policy.

Mr. GREEN: Apparently we have a very small air force. After all, we are a nation. Is there any reason why we should not build up an effective air force for defensive purposes?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The best answer I can make is that this year there is an increase of \$1,000,000 for that purpose. My judgment is that we should have a reasonably modest but effective air force in the dominion.

Item agreed to.