

who came down here from the board of trade or chamber of commerce—I have forgotten which—particularly about Dundurn, and I tried to take a personal interest in the matter. I am sorry that the situation was that the quarters which existed in Saskatoon were such as to make it desirable not to build in two places but to combine the depots just as depots for other provinces are combined. I think that was proper economy and proper efficiency. I do not think there is any other province which has two depots. I fully realize the justice, shall I say, which would be done by recognizing Saskatoon in every way possible and I tell my hon. friend that I certainly will keep it in mind, as I have promised to do before. Representations were made with regard to building materials there, but we were not able to use them as yet. I spoke to the deputy quartermaster general about that to-day. It has not been economically possible to use that material. But the wheel turns sometimes. I need not say to my hon. friend that there is no disposition to do anything but recognize Saskatoon in every possible way, and the fact that only \$30,000 was spent there is no indication of what the department thinks of the contribution Saskatoon has made. There are many other cities and towns in Saskatchewan and elsewhere which would be equally glad to have Saskatoon's proximity to a camp like Dundurn and the opportunity to serve the boys of that camp and have the benefit of whatever might come from the city's proximity to the camp.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Has the minister given consideration to the question whether it is advisable to concentrate these military establishments in one city? It often means moving large bodies of men into cities that are already highly congested, and it means taking equipment out of other places which have already been set up. For instance, if the present military establishment is moved out of Saskatoon to be merged with the Regina set-up, there is already standing the officers' mess I have already mentioned, put up at an expenditure of \$25,000 or \$30,000, which will no longer be used. It is just newly built, and workshops and equipment have been set up there also. Of course the equipment could be moved, but it seems to me it is time the department gave some thought to the wisdom of moving these military establishments into cities which are already congested. Certainly it has been of great advantage in Saskatchewan to have training camps at Prince Albert and Maple Creek. It has taken a strain off the larger centres. In Weyburn we have an excellent barracks on which considerable money was

spent. It is now standing empty. It could easily train five or six hundred men, and they would be much better quartered there than in some of the larger cities. Before the department takes a definite step in the matter I hope that consideration will be given to putting in a few huts to make it possible for troops to be trained in various centres rather than concentrating them at one large point, with the danger of adding to the congestion that already exists.

Mr. RALSTON: The thing which is being moved is the depot. The hon. member for Saskatoon City will correct me if I am wrong, but I think the vocational training establishment is still there. What is being moved is the depot. Honestly, while I agree with my hon. friend about dispersion as far as possible, I believe the depot can best be run when concentrated at one place. There you have, on the one hand, the men who are coming into the army, and on the other hand you have the men who are leaving the army. You have all your provision for induction into the army and medical examination. We are endeavouring to have these reception centres, as they are called, made just as complete as possible. It would mean two establishments if we had to duplicate all that organization in Saskatoon or some other place. It is not done in the other provinces. In the case of the depot I do believe it is desirable to concentrate. A good deal of consideration was given to the matter before the decision was reached, and I believe the decision is sound.

The hon. member for Saskatoon City said a word about armouries. The policy is not to build armouries during the war, and I think I advised my hon. friend of that. So much in the way of temporary building has to be done that we feel we would not be justified in adopting any policy now of building permanent structures for the purpose of armouries. Primarily, of course, they would be for the use of what would become active battalions, but armouries are generally built for the reserve battalions in peace time. I have had representations from other places as well. I am sorry that I cannot hold out any hope of the present policy being changed, much as I should like to meet my hon. friend's wishes if we were in a position to do it.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Is vocational training to be retained at Saskatoon?

Mr. RALSTON: I think so.