

*Supply—National Defence*

The sum of \$375,000 that was paid by this government was only about twenty-five cents on the dollar of what the camp cost the British government. While there are 16,000 or 20,000 acres of camp ground it is not all used for aviation. There is an aerodrome a mile square. It has been recognized by most eminent authorities on aviation that Camp Borden is one of the best camps in the British Empire for such a purpose. At Leaside and other camps, after heavy rains, they cannot take off with their planes, but at Camp Borden, owing to the sandy loam, they can take off in safety fifteen minutes after the heaviest rain. It is an absolute extravagance to waste Camp Borden which has cost the country so much money, and a camp which was sufficient in time of war should be sufficient to maintain the nucleus of an aviation force in time of peace.

Mr. THOMPSON: I feel that I must join with my colleague from Dufferin-Simcoe in protest against this expenditure. Undoubtedly the amount already expended on the site has been upwards of \$2,000,000 and it will take a like amount to establish a camp at Trenton. I venture to assert that when the Trenton camp is finished it will not be equal to what we are going to scrap at Camp Borden. During the present session the government have retained, to a certain extent, the sales tax which falls so heavily upon the poor people and they have done so on the ground that they need the money. The government have also refused to contribute toward highway construction and technical education on the ground that they have no money to spend on such objects. Now we are asked to scrap a camp, costing upwards of \$2,000,000 and to establish a camp on a new site.

If the minister is sincere in his statement that he wants to make a combination camp, why does he not utilize some of those magnificent stretches of water that are almost in the immediate vicinity of Camp Borden? He could establish at several points an auxiliary camp to be under the jurisdiction of the main camp, which would serve the dual purpose equally well and at a very small cost to the people. The hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe has mentioned Kempenfeldt bay within fifteen miles and an auxiliary camp could be established there. He could even go to lake Couchiching with the town of Orillia near by and a camp could be established there. If he wants to go on the southern shore of Georgian bay, all in the county of Simcoe nearby, there are such places as Collingwood, Penetanguishene, Midland, Coldwater or Vic-

[Mr. Rowe.]

toria Harbour, Waubauskene or Fesserton, all on land-locked harbours, and they are admirably situated for this purpose. Now we are asked to give up all that we have spent there and duplicate the expenditure in a new place. Has the minister considered what a serious thing it is for that community to lift out bodily a population of 700 souls and transport it to a new location altogether? This camp has been in existence for fifteen years; social and business relations have been established, and all this is going to be disrupted by the action of the minister. I think he would be well advised if he would let the matter stand in abeyance and look more closely into the question of Camp Borden. Camp Borden was not chosen hurriedly in time of war. If the minister will study the records of his department, he will find that the military authorities had for years previously thought of establishing a camp there. It seems to me that this proposition is a useless expenditure of money, and the matter could be handled much better than by scrapping the valuable camp we have at Camp Borden.

Mr. TUMMON: I am not at all surprised at my good friends from the district where Camp Borden is situated being anxious to retain that camp there. As to the suitability of a location for a camp, I do not feel that I am in a position to speak as an expert. I must put myself largely in the judgment of those who are capable of selecting a site for such a camp. The location at Trenton has been mentioned by my hon. friends in comparison with Camp Borden. While I cannot take the position that I am capable of judging, yet there are advantages there that in my opinion should be looked upon as of special importance as regards the location for such a plant. It is on the bay of Quinte, a landlocked body of water. It is protected on the north by the mainland, on the south by the county of Prince Edward, and on the west by that strip of land which connects Prince Edward county with the mainland. It is close to a prosperous and growing town, with a city on the other side to the east. There is a paved highway running between Toronto and Montreal, and both the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railways, thus affording not only rail and highway transportation but water transportation as well. If a larger body of water is needed, lake Ontario is only a few miles away. What I have said in regard to Trenton can I think be said with equal force of Camp Mohawk. The minister has said that he proposes to