

that a gun operates properly or that a proper type of gun is being supplied. The blame would be on the Department of National Defence for accepting an improper design or for not ensuring by inspection that the gun delivered was in accordance with the design.

Mr. GRAYDON: They both have responsibility.

Mr. JACKMAN: I do not wish to labour the point, but in the case of the government arsenals at Lindsay and Quebec the government is entirely responsible, yet you have another department of government spending a lot of money to carry on inspection work. The government is putting up the money to carry on the arsenals at Lindsay and at Quebec; they are both directly under government supervision, yet when the product is finished the government spends a considerable amount of money to make sure that the article is all right. In other words, it inspects its own article of manufacture. It is the government in both cases; there is a duplication. I am not protesting against the government doing this; I am simply asking the minister whether he feels it is necessary to have a duplication of inspection in these places.

Mr. RALSTON: There is really no duplication of inspection. There is the necessary inspection for the user of any goods or article which he has ordered, and that is made by the board as representative of the user. The production inspectors I have spoken of are there to inspect components and to see that they are proper to go into the particular article. I cannot conceive of this thing called "government" being responsible just in a general way. Even if munitions and supply did the inspecting, there would be no saving, because they would have to have the same number of people as the board acting for national defence has now. They could not get along with the staff they have in the plants to expedite production; they would have to have additional personnel as inspectors to inspect the finished article and see that it conforms to the specifications and is suitable for the purpose for which it is made.

Mr. JACKMAN: Naturally I accept the minister's answer, but at one time I was an inspector myself, so that I know something of the inspection that goes on in these plants. Sometimes it is done by government inspectors, and perhaps it is necessary to check up the operations. Yesterday the hon. member for Peterborough West asked the following question to which the minister made the following reply:

72537—204

Does the army buy from the Department of Munitions and Supply, or direct from the plants?

Mr. Ralston: Sometimes. There is an arrangement with the British under which ammunition is bought by the British. Since it is anticipated we shall be serving with the British, when we serve with them we will be furnished by them with ammunition.

What are the financial arrangements in connection with the use of ammunition by our troops in Great Britain or on any other fighting front?

Mr. RALSTON: There will be a capitation rate applying to the supply of ammunition and the supply of certain other consumable stores. It would not be possible for each component of a force to have its own supply of ammunition. There must be some central source of supply, and the amount used is based upon the guns to be served.

Mr. JACKMAN: I am interested only in the financial arrangements, not the physical.

Mr. RALSTON: I could not give my hon. friend the capitation.

Mr. JACKMAN: Do we pay for the ammunition we use?

Mr. RALSTON: Oh, yes; we pay for the ammunition that is used. It is paid for at an arbitrary or approximate rate. No attempt is made by us or by the British to count the rounds which are used. If we have so many guns in the line, we pay so much for the ammunition.

Mr. HANSELL: Is the work of this inspection board confined to the inspection of munitions and equipment, or does it also carry on the inspection of construction work? If not, how is that handled? I have had no complaints with respect to munitions and equipment, but I have had one or two in respect to construction work.

Mr. RALSTON: Speaking for the army, construction work is inspected by the engineers under the quartermaster general's branch.

Item agreed to.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Perhaps I could take advantage of this opportunity to make a suggestion with respect to the need of establishing in Canada at this time a system of life insurance for the men and women in the armed forces.

Mr. RALSTON: I do not wish to shut off my hon. friend, but I have the answers to about a dozen questions which were asked and which I should like to put on record.