

*Supply—National Defence*

is essential that Shannon be taken over and the 25 families moved for their own safety. But surely, if appropriation proceedings have been taken to their present stage there must be an element of danger. Surely it is not intended to move a whole village if there is no element of danger.

Now I should like to ask the minister to tell us how many troops will be trained in mortar firing—how many will actually fire a mortar at Valcartier? What is his projection of the cost of training these troops there as against the cost of training them at Shilo or Gagetown or on any other range in Canada? Is it really necessary that there should be this extension to the range because of the need for firing mortars or other types of weapons?

I should like to know how many people are to be trained there. I see the higher paid help are talking it over carefully with the minister. Obviously he does not know much about it himself.

● (9:20 p.m.)

**The Chairman:** Shall item 15 carry?

**Mr. Pugh:** I think we are getting an answer to this. It may take a little while, but I will stand on my feet and it will save your asking that question again, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Churchill:** Repeat the question. The minister may have forgotten it.

**Mr. Pugh:** If it is necessary to go through expropriation proceedings and move 25 families away from the village, then obviously a great deal of thought has been given by the minister to the type of training that is going to be carried out at Valcartier. He says it is absolutely necessary. I am asking, necessary for what? I am asking him how many men are going to be trained here? He could stand up and give us a brief rundown just exactly why it is necessary to have this as a mortar range. We could restrict it to a mortar range at present and then go on to deal with the other equipment.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to give my hon. friend the information he requires, but as he would well know, the training requirements would fluctuate from time to time depending on the plans of the mobile commander. I am sure if I gave a figure now and it proved in actual practice to be higher or lower than that called for in the plans of the commander, the hon. member would accuse me of bad faith. I have no intention of pinning down figures on this at the moment. If he wants to ask the mobile commander what his plans are in a general way, then the

[Mr. Pugh.]

hon. member could do that when the commander appears before the standing committee. But to try and say X number of men will be firing X number of rounds would not be helpful at the present time. I do not want to mislead the committee by giving figures which might not prove to be accurate later on.

**Mr. Churchill:** You just don't know.

**Mr. Pugh:** We still come back to the fact that a village is going to be expropriated and that 25 families who have been living there for a number of generations have been asked to leave. It seems to me we could hold item 15 until we get these answers. Surely they are not hard to find out. The minister, with all the high class weaponry he has been talking about, must know the state of training to which he must bring his troops so that they can use this weaponry.

My knowledge goes back to the actual use of a mortar, but possibly not the latest type of mortar he is talking about. However, I cannot see there is going to be all that number of rounds of mortar fired each and every year. It seems to me we must be able to get some sort of reasonable answer. Let us say that if there are few men who are being trained, then there is no use for the extension of Valcartier. Or let us say a great number of men are being trained, then within the reasonable bounds of expense other camps such as Gagetown or Shilo could be used for the same purpose. My hon. friend from Swift Current-Maple Creek mentions Wainwright.

Quebec is just one portion of Canada, and all of Canada has tremendous areas which can be used for training without the necessity of expropriation. I know the position of the associate minister who, as I said before, is an extraordinarily fair man, but he has been handed a mandate and the mandate is expropriation. It is nothing short of expropriation. He says he will renegotiate, but if expropriation is the aim, then nothing short of expropriation will be used in the case of this village and these 25 families. Surely to goodness the amount of training which requires this vast expansion of the camp must be known and should be told to the committee. I cannot see any reason why we cannot have a reasonable answer.

The minister mentioned that he did not want to mislead the committee, that we would damn him for giving an answer that is incorrect, but within reason surely he can tell us how many men are going to be trained in that place. I do not think we can pass this