

*Reinforcements*

ing in cooperation with the training branch, who know the training standards, to make selections of personnel. When these matters have been studied, specific proposals will be made by the adjutant-general as to where these men are to come from and who they are, and will be placed in front of the minister for approval. In the course of the two or three hours since that order in council became the law of the land, that process of distribution and selection has only just commenced. It will be some time yet before I can give a specific decision as to how it is to be put together.

Mr. RALSTON: I think the general is missing something that appeared in his statement this afternoon. As I understood the question, it was, where are we to get the 16,000? I understood the general to say that the deficit of the 16,000, over and above those who are volunteers, would be obtained from the N.R.M.A. Do I not understand that all these 16,000 are to be from N.R.M.A. men?

Mr. STIRLING: No.

Mr. RALSTON: I am talking about N.R.M.A. men, whether volunteers or under the order in council. Are not all the 16,000 from N.R.M.A.?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: No.

Mr. RALSTON: The general is missing something, or I am hazy in my reading of the speech. He said:

I want to say, quite definitely, that all anxiety would be removed if we were able to find in December a total, above the numbers now arranged, of 5,000 infantry fully trained, or in an advanced state of training, a similar number in January, and a further 6,000 in the succeeding months. Every possible economy in the employment of fit general service personnel in home establishments has now been made or is in process, and the men so made available are included in the figures of planned dispatches.

Which means other dispatches altogether—not the 16,000.

In consequence, the only source from which this additional 16,000 can be secured is from the N.R.M.A.

Is that right or not?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: When N.R.M.A. men volunteer for general service and go into those quotas, then compulsion is not used. There are also certain individuals coming from other sources to make up that 16,000 requirement.

An hon. MEMBER: From what other sources?

Mr. RALSTON: I am more interested in the 16,000 men than in anything else talked

[Mr. McNaughton.]

about to-night, because they are the men to make up the reinforcements.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The substantial bulk will come from that source.

Mr. RALSTON: But does it not say that all the 16,000 will come from N.R.M.A., either as volunteers or under the order in council?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: There are other individuals who go to make up these drafts.

Mr. RALSTON: Surely your speech meant that all the 16,000 would be from the N.R.M.A., either by volunteering or under the order in council, and not from people who are general service men now.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: We have taken most of the general service personnel who are free. Additional general service personnel are being freed from home war establishments every day, and as they are sorted out, if they happen to be selected for particular dispatch they will be included.

Mr. RALSTON: But I want to point out, if I can read anything at all, that this indicates that all men who have been planned for and sorted out, and who are expected to be sorted out, are to be put in the planned dispatches, which I understand to be the usual monthly quotas which are going over from time to time. This 16,000, I understand, constitutes a lump sum of 5,000, 5,000, and three 2,000 lots. These have to be trained men, and they do all come from N.R.M.A., whether they volunteer subsequently or come under the order in council.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The bulk of them will come from that source.

Mr. RALSTON: This says all of them:

In consequence, the only source from which this additional 16,000 can be secured is from the N.R.M.A.

Is there any qualification to that?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: No. There is no qualification to it whatever, but there are always people coming from various sources. There are additional general service people coming in, in addition to the planned dispatches which we had made up and formed before this additional provision was made.

Mr. RALSTON: You will find that the officer beside you has every man that can possibly be forecast as coming from any source at all, and that he and you are counting on N.R.M.A. personnel who volunteer as going in the regular monthly dispatches and not as part of the 16,000.