

them a world of good, forty-five minutes every morning at eight o'clock—I wish I could do it; I would be the better for it. It is a grand thing for these young boys. They learn to march and form threes and go through the elementary evolutions. So far as it goes the syllabus is good, and I would not condemn it except to say that it does not make a soldier. To stop this training at this point would be a great waste of money, especially if they are not attached to some non-permanent active militia unit.

Mr. RALSTON: They are.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): These men should put in the non-permanent active militia training. I hope my hon. friend will make that clear; there is no compulsory further training now, as I understand the position. I hope he is right.

Mr. RALSTON: I said they are attached to a non-permanent active militia unit.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It would be a great waste of time and money, I think, if they did not go further. After giving the matter the best consideration I can, and having obtained the best advice I can, I am going to make two concrete suggestions. I hope the minister will give heed to them, because these suggestions are offered in the best of good faith, designed to achieve an objective which I think both he and I have at heart.

The first suggestion is that the length of time of training for these men be increased to at least four months, and that we train three groups a year instead of ten. The first eight weeks of this four months' course should be designated the basic recruits' course, and the second eight weeks the trained men's course, and graduation being required from one course into the other.

I am not going to compare what we are doing with what they are doing in the United States, but certainly I think no one will suggest that thirty days' training will make a man a soldier. I am told that a four months' course will make a man quite a good soldier. These two courses would be in some degree repetitions, but the courses have been worked out to be the minimum period necessary for initial training. Lengthening the course would mean that fewer men would be taken away from industry at the present time. That is important. And it would mean that those taken would receive training that would be of great value when they are called to active service.

My second concrete suggestion is this. I propose that all men, when they have received the four months' course, should be posted to

the local non-permanent active militia units, not merely put on the reserve, as I understand is the present position. If I am wrong I hope my hon. friend will correct me. This would ensure their training being continuous and would prevent them from forgetting most of the rapidly given instruction already received, as will probably be the case under the present plan. It would keep up their morale, which to-day I am glad to think is magnificent. These young men have fine morale and we ought to keep that up.

The non-permanent active militia units are probably able to absorb one or two groups, but their facilities for doing so would soon be overtaxed. Therefore it is extremely difficult to post the trainees from the thirty-day course to the non-permanent active militia units because of excess of numbers and lack of facilities. The saturation point would soon be reached.

If the war to date has taught our military authorities anything it is that a few well trained and well equipped troops are better than vast numbers of partly trained men. That was implied by General Crerar in his speech before the Ottawa Canadian club. To-day in Canada we have recruited for our armed forces more men than we can train and equip. I think I am within the limits of the truth when I make that statement. Our military effort is ahead of our industrial effort. Let us strengthen our weakest link first. I would point out that the United Kingdom, with a population of approximately forty million people, has raised upwards of one hundred divisions. Of course I realize that England is an armed fortress, that she must raise proportionately more men than we, but if Canada were doing its pro rata share we would be required to raise twenty-five divisions, as well as carry on the air training plan. I point this out to give an idea of the effort that Britain is exerting and what we should be prepared at least to contemplate.

Let me recapitulate. I suggest that the plan be continued, with a four months' training period instead of thirty days, and that all men be required to join non-permanent active militia units and receive further training with them and the special instruction peculiar to the arm of the service that they are finally to enter.

I desire now to turn to a consideration of Canada's war effort as viewed by our friends to the south. This is a matter upon which I have reflected deeply and upon which I believe the Canadian people have reflected deeply.

When I left here on August 3 last I did so with the consoling thought that in some measure at least I had made some contribution with respect to driving the ministry into a