

bombing and gunnery schools will begin their closing sometime late in December, when we shall have reached a point in our training of gunners where we shall be on the verge of achieving a surplus.

What is to become of these schools? In my statement I mentioned what was the long-range situation, and it is a situation which will be faced by every locality in which a school is located. Eventually these schools will be turned over to the Surplus Assets Corporation for disposal, and I presume they will be handed over to the Department of Transport.

Mr. GRAYDON: The minister means the War Assets Corporation?

Mr. POWER: Yes; and in due course the War Assets Corporation will ask the different departments of government what use the schools can be put to. I presume, if no other department takes them on, eventually they will be handed over to the Department of Transport, which looks after civil aviation.

For the moment we are not proposing to abandon any of these schools mentioned. In the first place, whatever our plans may be, we are certainly not going to abandon schools, when some eventuality might arise, because of which we might have to reopen them—not that I anticipate it, but simply because we want to make sure about that.

In the second place, we have some use for them. They will be utilized as aircraft storage units, which store and maintain aircraft required as stored reserves. They have an estimated service establishment of about 200. There will be aircraft holding units, which will hold aircraft being stored, and awaiting disposal by the War Assets Corporation. They have an estimated service establishment of approximately 100. There will be equipment holding units for storage of all types of R.C.A.F. equipment, which will have service establishment of about 175. There will be personnel holding units, because every now and then, particularly with these changes, and this reshuffling and shuffling, we find we must hold personnel between courses, and we have to put them somewhere. So that some of these units will be taken into personnel holding units for the storage of personnel awaiting another stage of training or, in some cases, awaiting embarkation, if they are backed up because of a shortage of shipping. There will be service establishments there of about 100.

Then there will be pre-aircrew education schools. Up to the present time a very large number of our men who come in have not

[Mr. Power.]

quite reached the educational standards required for aircrew. We have been sending them to universities for that training. From now on, however, we will take on that job, ourselves, and instead of sending them to universities we will train them in our own units which have been or will be left available. That is for the training of pre-aircrew personnel, by R.C.A.F. instructional staff which was formerly carried on by the universities. That requires a service establishment of about 100.

I wish to put on *Hansard*—and I might as well do so now—what is going to happen to them all. Pennfield Ridge will continue as a transport conversion unit. Edmonton, Alberta, which was known as No. 2 A.O.S. will become No. 2 wing headquarters to the Northwest Staging Route. That is a very congested airdrome.

Weyburn, 8 S.F.T.S., will become an equipment holding unit.

Belleville, which it was announced might be closed, will now follow on, until December, 1944, as a flight engineer school.

Saskatoon I.T.S. will be returned to the lessor. It belonged to the normal school and Bedford collegiate.

Fort William will become an aircraft holding unit.

Goderich will be an aircraft holding unit.

Windsor Mills will become an aircraft holding unit.

Assiniboia will become a pre-aircrew education school, for about 240 trainees.

Neepawa will become a pre-aircrew educational school with about 240 trainees.

Dewinton will become an aircraft holding unit.

Bowden will become a pre-aircrew educational school with about 240 trainees.

Regina will become a pre-aircrew education school with about 170 trainees.

Brantford will become an aircraft holding unit.

Dunnville will be an aircraft holding unit.

Macleod will become an equipment holding unit. There is a very good hospital there, so that it is probable that we will use it as a convalescent hospital.

Yorkton will become an equipment holding unit.

Aylmer will become a flight engineers' school.

Moose Jaw will become a personnel holding unit.

Carberry will become an equipment holding unit.