

Supply—National Defence

Mr. Harkness: Is it anticipated that new stations will be set up in the coming year?

Mr. Claxton: No, we are intending to go through this year with the 21 that we have, that is the 20 we had before the entry of Newfoundland plus H.M.C.S. Cabot which was established upon the entry of Newfoundland into confederation.

Mr. Harkness: Could the minister tell us what buildings were acquired or constructed during the last year, and in particular if a building for recreational purposes and a laundry building were constructed at Esquimalt?

Mr. Claxton: Neither building has been constructed. It is planned to complete the construction this year of a new permanent barracks at Halifax and also to do a considerable amount of construction at Dartmouth. There is no express provision for Esquimalt as yet. I have seen the list of priorities and have discussed the situation with the chief of the naval service and I assure my hon. friend that the laundry building, the new barracks and other buildings at Esquimalt are high on the list.

Mr. Fulton: The minister told me a few moments ago that there was no inventory of the defence buildings. Do I understand from that that when a building is constructed or otherwise acquired it is not carried on the defence department's books? It seems to me that such a building should be reflected in the assets of the dominion.

Mr. Claxton: The hon. member's assumption is quite correct. There is no capital entry in respect of defence properties.

Mr. Fulton: Why not?

Mr. Claxton: It is not government policy with regard to any department that I know of. I am afraid that is really a matter for the Minister of Finance, but that is my information.

Mr. Harkness: What proportion of the \$9,900,000 in the naval vote is for that purpose? You read the figures in a hurry, and it was rather difficult to catch them.

Mr. Claxton: \$5,343,000.

Mr. Harkness: I take it that is all for construction on the west coast.

Mr. Claxton: No. The largest single item is at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Harkness: I meant the east coast. The construction of these other buildings recommended at Esquimalt will have to wait until this other construction is finished? Is that the situation?

Mr. Claxton: Until it is started. We feel that the needs for this other construction are greater than on the west coast.

Mr. Harkness: Under the next item which deals with personnel supplies and services, food supplies, and so forth, can the minister tell us whether the deficiencies in personnel equipment, clothing and so forth, which were outlined in the Mainguy report, have now been made up, and what the situation is in regard to these items?

Mr. Claxton: The deficiencies are being made good. I have not had any shortage of issue clothing or equipment for new entries reported to me since six months ago.

Mr. Harkness: I take it that the deficiencies have been made good. You said they were being made good, and if you have not had any reports of deficiencies for six months then I presume they have been made good and there are none.

Mr. Claxton: We are proposing to spend a total of \$1,816,400 on clothing and personnel equipment. Looking at the details of that amount, it is almost entirely for clothing, and the amounts would indicate to me that they are for normal supplies rather than large amounts to make good deficiencies.

Mr. Harkness: Can the minister tell us how much of the amount of \$5,700,000 is for food, and what it costs per day at the present time to feed a man in the navy?

Mr. Claxton: The food for all three services is now an identical ration, and I believe it to be the best ever issued to forces anywhere. The cost varies with each contract according to the amount tendered. At the present time it is running about \$1 per man per day.

Mr. Harkness: As to the next item, stores, equipment and so forth, it is up from \$27 million to \$38 million. Can the minister tell us what is the cause of the bulk of that increase? Is it because of new ships which are to be completed and paid for this year or is it mainly for other items of equipment?

Mr. Claxton: Yes, it is. The largest amount is for signal and wireless stores. The additional amount for that purpose is about \$3,500,000.

Mr. Harkness: I could not hear the minister.

Mr. Claxton: The additional amount sought for signal and wireless stores is approximately \$3,500,000. There is an amount of \$5 million for armament stores, which is largely rearmament of existing vessels and similar changes. For acquisition and addition of ships we propose to spend \$9,775,000 against