

being taken there and elsewhere to protect army quarters against a recurrence of this sort of thing?

Mr. RALSTON: In connection with the conditions at Saskatoon I may say that I have not had a report of the kind my hon. friend refers to. It might not come to me, but the inspector-general is rigorous in these matters. The depot at Saskatoon is to be amalgamated with Regina and the conditions that prevail there will not have to be borne very long. I am not suggesting that they should be put up with at all, and perhaps some temporary arrangements should be made to eliminate the conditions of which my hon. friend speaks. Perhaps I am more impressed by what he says about the stench and general atmosphere than I am with regard to the matter of air space, because I do not think the quarters will be filled up. The Regina depot is being built for the purpose of amalgamating the two. I am obliged to my hon. friend for bringing this to my attention and if there is any possibility of these men being there any length of time I shall see to it that temporary remedies are applied at once.

All I have seen with regard to the fire at Regina is the telegraphic report which is required to be sent in and which answers certain specific questions at once. The two points with which I am most concerned is the matter of the adequacy of fire protection and fire fighting equipment, and the cause of the fire, whether or not it was sabotage. There was no evidence of any kind as to the cause of the fire, but the investigation was proceeding when this wire came in. With regard to the adequacy of the fire equipment, I was concerned about the fact that the answer made was that the equipment was not adequate for this fire. That raised the question whether the equipment was the standard equipment. I personally put questions on the memorandum. First, I asked: Was this equipment adequate, having regard to the standards we have set up for fire equipment in these different places? If it was inadequate for this fire, does this indicate that the standard is insufficient? The memo came to me on Friday and I made inquiries about it at once. It is just answered briefly in that respect and there is no indication as to what the town fire equipment was as compared with the military fire equipment. I hope to have further information on that point.

Mr. BENCE: The minister has said that the conditions referred to by the hon. member for Weyburn will not have to be put up with very long because these men are to be moved.

[Mr. T. C. Douglas.]

The complaint we have in Saskatoon is that the solution to every problem is to take away men or equipment from the city. We have one of the finest cities in western Canada with ample facilities of all kinds. For years we have been trying to induce the administration to construct proper armouries in Saskatoon. I think the minister from his own experience of that city will realize that it is a fine place for such a building. Our strongest complaint is that the centres which are closer to national defence headquarters always seem to be able to put on sufficient pressure to have necessary buildings erected, but the answer given to a place like Saskatoon, which is 1,500 to 2,000 miles from Ottawa, is that there is no material or labour; yet in other parts of the country there seem to be ample. On a number of occasions I have referred to the number of temporary buildings which have been erected in Ottawa, which number is increasing every year. These buildings required material and labour and yet there never seems to be any available to construct a proper armouries in our city. We are right in the centre of the province and are one of the largest recruiting centres in the province. I should like to know why it is that only \$30,000, representing material and labour, can be found for that city whereas large sums are found for other centres in the country.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend puts it on a very narrow basis when he asks that question. We are not finding money for cities, as my hon. friend knows.

Mr. BENCE: You are finding it for accommodation, and the accommodation there is bad.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend asks why can we find only \$30,000 for Saskatoon.

Mr. BENCE: Not for Saskatoon, but for accommodation in Saskatoon.

Mr. RALSTON: Nothing is too good for Saskatoon, of course, in my hon. friend's mind or in my mind either, so far as that goes. Saskatoon is the junction point and the service point for Dundurn camp. That is where all the men go. There are not very many military establishments there, I know, and nowhere has a military establishment been supported more enthusiastically than by citizens of Saskatoon. But we do not make allotments for the different cities. There are a good many cities and towns, some of them much nearer home than Saskatoon, which feel they have been overlooked. I can only say to my hon. friend that I had his representations and representations from gentlemen