

*Reinforcements*

about. Within individual units there are always times when units are short; it cannot be otherwise, in battle.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: One other question, then, to follow. If casualties to an unknown extent may occur, is it the opinion of the general that we have a—contemplated—sufficient pool for possible casualties of the future?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I am not absolutely certain that I understand the question, but I think it is this. You have asked whether the provision we have made, and which I have outlined briefly, is sufficient for the future. I must repeat that the requirements of wastage are determined on estimates given by our own officers and countersigned by the theatre commanders, so that we may know they have been prepared to accord with the planned operations which are in prospect. Then, with the numbers in the depots, which can be calculated from that, according to the scales shown by experience to be necessary, and the numbers behind to maintain, we have made full provision, with a small margin beyond.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Is it the general's opinion that the former Minister of National Defence and his advisers used incorrect figures or were ill advised?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The answer is, no, not under the plans that were before them. I have been over those estimates and I think that with the information then available they were correct.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Without disclosing secrets to the enemy—I do not know who they are—have you information since then which the ex-Minister of National Defence did not have? I should like to know that, as an old soldier—and the general is too. What information is there since Colonel Ralston was overseas which would offset his information?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Information changes—

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: How?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: —when you are dealing with this fluid situation of reinforcements, a great stream of men moving forward. The situation changes almost daily as to numbers available.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Not volunteers.

Mr. BROOKS: I wish to ask a few questions. It may seem like repeating, but I do not think the situation is altogether clear to some hon. members with regard to these 16,000. The general said that the requirements will be

maintained. I should like to ask him, first: Are these to be maintained by volunteers through ordinary volunteering, men coming up, and from N.R.M.A. volunteering? That is correct?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Yes.

Mr. BROOKS: That is one source. The second source is from mustering.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Subject, of course, to training standards laid down.

Mr. BROOKS: The third source of reinforcements is the wounded man who has recovered and who has come back.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The recoverable.

Mr. BROOKS: And the fourth will be from N.R.M.A. as a last resort. Is that correct? That is what I understood the minister to say.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The powers to compel obedience will be used to make up any deficit in the drafts that have been planned.

Mr. BROOKS: In the next three or four months there will be 16,000 reinforcements for infantry. We know that in the training camps in this country at the present time there are men who have volunteered, who are receiving their training. There are men who have been mustered out and who are receiving their training. These men will be part of this 16,000.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: No. With reference to the 16,000 of which we have been speaking, in order to be specific I would point out that the number is to be made up of 5,000 in December, 5,000 in January, and then three monthly quotas of 2,000.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Is the war to be over then?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: May I answer one question at a time. What I have said is additional to the plans which we have made before and which I am hoping to show you in detail later.

Mr. BROOKS: Will this 5,000 for the first month be taken entirely from N.R.M.A.?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Substantially, yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You said "all", this afternoon.

Mr. BROOKS: Will any volunteers be taken in that first five thousand?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I cannot answer the question yet.