

friend the round figures—then the air force spent \$60,000 and the Canadian corps of signallers spent \$14,000. The air board has spent on maintenance \$110,000, the air force \$175,000 and the corps of signallers, \$20,000. The actual capital expenditure since that time has therefore been \$111,000, because my hon. friend will understand that the items for maintenance do not enter into the calculation because they are annual expenditures which would be required in any event.

Mr. THOMPSON: What did it cost the government before that?

Mr. RALSTON: The whole 17,000 acres composing the camp were not of course used for the air force by any means. The total amount expended on the whole camp up to the time the imperial munitions board took it over would be about \$1,584,000 for construction, and about \$21,000 for maintenance.

Mr. THOMPSON: What will the new camp cost?

Mr. RALSTON: The buildings at either camp would cost about the same. It is estimated that necessary buildings and improvements at Camp Borden would cost about \$1,400,000, while the estimated cost for buildings at some other point, without married quarters would be \$1,100,000 and with married quarters about \$1,500,000. In addition to the \$1,400,000 which would be necessary to be expended at Camp Borden, the committee will understand that we would have to spend probably \$500,000 to provide a seaplane base at another point.

Mr. ROWE: This camp being situated in the riding which I have the honour to represent, it seems to me that at this time, when we are talking so much about economy, this would be a very extravagant move for the government to make. Anyone familiar with Camp Borden will readily appreciate that the camp should be sufficient to maintain the nucleus of an air force, and especially in view of the efficiency of that camp in times of war. I quite appreciate that the vast acreage would not be needed to maintain a training camp, but it is situated inland and this factor was considered as being of great importance by the Imperial government and by the royal air force. The Imperial government and the Department of Militia and Defence recommended this site very highly. Criticism has been made as to lack of transportation to the camp, but it is situated on a switch only four miles long on the Canadian Pacific railway and five miles long on the Canadian National railway. It is only

about half a mile from a good highway, and it seems to me that with the conveniences which are at the camp at present it would be sufficient to maintain a training camp for the purposes for which the minister proposes to vote this money. The camp has been equipped with seventeen hangars, one hundred and twenty by sixty feet each; each hangar capable of housing six aeroplanes, or a total of about one hundred. There is an engine shop, sixty by forty; a carpenter shop, sixty by forty; two large barracks eighty by eighty, two storeys high, each capable of housing comfortably seventy-five men, all steam heated, electric lighted, with other quarters for married men; twenty cottages for married officers and their families; school for forty pupils; hospital capable of looking after thirty-five or forty patients. It has in fact, everything necessary for the comfort of the soldiers, and the only feature that could be improved is the location for a hydroplane base. Further, it is within fifteen miles of Kempenfeldt bay, which would be a most appropriate place for a base for hydroplanes. Surely it is a consideration if a camp is situated where there is a denser population and where there is heavy traffic on the highway similar to that at Trenton. Hon. members who are familiar with the Toronto district know the trouble they have had at Leaside in keeping the traffic back and avoiding accidents. There is a large patrol force there in order to keep the traffic back when flights are being made.

I wish also to impress upon the committee the fact that a camp situated on the boundary line between this country and a foreign country is not as appropriate for a military camp as a camp situated some fifty miles away, as the present Camp Borden is. That was a feature which was strongly impressed by the British government on the royal air force when it was established at Camp Borden. The United States has fifty-three aeroplane bases and only three of them have accommodation for hydroplanes and aeroplanes as combination bases, and surely if such a large country as the United States consider it sufficient to have, out of fifty-three, only three with hydroplane facilities, we should take this increased expenditure into consideration. Moreover, I think only one of those fifty-three, the one at Mount Clemens, is anywhere near the boundary line. It is for the committee to consider whether it is wise to spend millions of the public money to establish a military camp close to the international boundary to replace a camp that has cost between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000.