

Mr. RALSTON: That just depends upon events; we cannot tell. It depends upon how long the war lasts, and what are the calls upon us. It is planned that they shall be ready to do so.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I ask if there is any shortage of Bren guns in the equipment of the reserve army? I have heard that statement made, and I wonder if the minister would say whether or not that is the situation.

Mr. RALSTON: We are not up to establishment in Bren guns for the reserve army.

Mr. GRAYDON: Does the minister expect to have the supply of Bren guns for the reserve army brought up to establishment in the very near future?

Mr. RALSTON: It depends upon activities overseas, as my hon. friend can understand. We are doing everything possible to bring the Bren guns for the reserve army up to establishment, but as my hon. friend knows, we will send them overseas first.

Mr. FULFORD: Speaking as a member of the reserve army, I must say that I have been astounded at the amount of equipment the reserve army now has, and also at the vast improvement in the curriculum. In our own unit, which is a small one, we are equipped with Bren guns, Sten guns—a type of Thompson sub-machine gun—we are fully equipped with rifles; we have a Boys anti-tank gun, and we have small trucks. Granted we have not some of the heavier equipment, but I do not expect that the reserve army will get that until such time as it is called out for active service. I refer to such things as the Bofors anti-aircraft gun, Bren carriers and the smaller tanks. There is one suggestion, however, that I should like to offer. We have been shown training moving pictures twice a week. Unfortunately by the time we receive these pictures they are quite out of date; in fact some of the tactics we are shown are obsolete. I understand that in the United States all army units are given the very latest pictures as soon as they come out, and I would ask the minister to give serious consideration to whether it would not be possible to give us more modern moving pictures on tactical problems.

Mr. RALSTON: The provision of additional training films is not only receiving consideration but having active attention.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I should like to have the minister elaborate a little more

fully on the role he expects the reserve army to play. I think members of the reserve army as well as members of this house generally would be interested in knowing whether there is some part they can play, as they are hoping they will have a part to play as the war progresses. It seems to me that if at some not far distant date they are to be assigned the responsibility of protecting the shores of Canada, several things will have to be done. If all the general service personnel in Canada should be sent overseas, and if the government should decide to send overseas the home defence personnel as well, the entire defence of Canada's shores would be left in the hands of the reserve army. If that is in contemplation, I think the department should take into consideration now extending the training of the defence units. Fifteen days at camp is a very small amount of training. Of course units stationed in the cities train two or three nights a week and very often carry out schemes over week-ends. In the case of dispersed units, however, a very limited amount of training is carried on; it is limited by weather conditions, by geography, by the difficulty of procuring equipment and places to meet. As I suggested to the minister last year, in the case of dispersed units particularly, some consideration might be given to having thirty days training instead of fifteen, or having fifteen days training in the summer time and another fifteen days training in barracks during the winter. Dispersed units are usually located in agricultural areas, and many men can leave the farms much more easily in the winter time than during the summer, when there is haying, harvesting and so on to look after. If these men are to be given the responsibility of playing an important part in Canada's defence, some of them will have to be given a great deal more training than they are given now. They have a fairly good basic training, but they have had no opportunity at all to handle such things as mortars and some of the more specialized weapons. Some training ought to be given if the minister has in mind that they are to play some important defence role in the near future.

The second matter, that of equipment, was mentioned by the hon. member for Vancouver South. As I said, to-day our equipment is immeasurably better than it was, but I am surprised to hear the minister say, and I know it must be true, that there is a scarcity of Bren guns. The other day when some one asked the Minister of Munitions and Supply