

ment in the light of the recommendations received from those who are responsible for the moral and spiritual welfare of the men and women of the army. The decision has not been made hastily but only after study over a considerable period with a view to appraising the needs and scrutinizing carefully the proposals involved with a view to achieving the most economical structure which would meet these needs. I cannot help but feel that the expenditure of a sum within the range of a modest amount such as the above as an aid to building character and fortifying morale is an investment well warranted both as an aid to success in the war and to the future of the nation in the hoped-for days of peace.

I am reading from a communication which I have sent to a number of people who have written me in connection with this matter. I thought it would be as well to place it on record so the committee might know the considerations which prompted the authorization of these religious centres.

Mr. QUELCH: Could the minister give us any information with regard to a defence project at Youngstown, Alberta; the purpose for which it is being constructed and its estimated cost?

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Before the minister leaves the matter of chapels, did I understand him to say there were twenty-seven chapels to be built?

Mr. RALSTON: Twenty-seven under construction now.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): With the fifteen already built that will make a total of forty-two?

Mr. RALSTON: No, it is the other way round. There are twenty-seven under construction now, but the total will be forty-two.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): There are fifteen more to be built, and twenty-seven under construction?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): What is the seating capacity of each of these chapels?

Mr. RALSTON: About two hundred on the average, according to the deputy quartermaster-general.

Mr. HAZEN: The minister told me he would let me see a break-down of the expenditures last year for buildings and so on. Will he let me see that now or will he send me a copy?

Mr. RALSTON: It is in this book, and I want the deputy quartermaster-general to have this book here in case there are other questions to be answered. If my hon. friend will come

over here I will show it to him, and then if the book is required he can give it back to the deputy quartermaster-general.

Mr. GREEN: How much of this item is to be spent on hospitals, first of all by way of capital expenditure, and second for repairs, operating expenses and rentals?

Mr. RALSTON: I cannot tell my hon. friend in regard to repairs, but there is less than \$2,000,000 in capital construction in regard to hospitals.

Mr. GREEN: What is the policy of the government with regard to the construction of military hospitals? There have been complaints that the government builds military hospitals where it would be far better to construct additions to civilian hospitals. In most cases these military hospitals will not be needed after the war, whereas if an addition were put on a civilian hospital, that addition would be very useful to the people of the area after the war. It does seem to me that the government should very carefully consider whether or not it would be better to construct additions to civilian hospitals. That question came up at Victoria. I do not know the facts of the case personally, but newspaper articles have stated that the government decided to build its own hospital at a cost of about a million dollars, whereas an addition could have been made to the Jubilee hospital at a cost of \$250,000, just one-quarter as much. Then this article goes on to point out that after the war this wing would be badly needed by Jubilee hospital. Could the minister tell us what is the policy with regard to these hospitals?

Mr. RALSTON: The policy in regard to hospitals must be determined by the particular circumstances. Obviously there is no opportunity to add to a hospital in the case of a camp which is isolated from any existing hospitals. There are a few cases, only a few—as a matter of fact I remember only one in connection with the army, and that was at Prince Rupert—where authorization may be given for the construction of an addition to an existing hospital. As the hon. member knows, this whole matter of hospitals now has been put in excellent shape, as far as preventing overlapping is concerned, with the creation of the interdepartmental hospitalization board which I think was the subject of discussion before the war expenditures committee last year. A civilian administrative member has been added to this board, at the instance of the war expenditures committee, and to it also has been added a hospital expert