

*War Appropriation*

tory tests are required, when the oil comes a from the garage, or from wherever it may be obtained, to ascertain whether or not it contains Prestone, or anything of that kind, or transmission grease; and it also requires laboratory tests when it goes out to ascertain that it contains no foreign matter which would interfere with its lubricating value. By another system it may be possible that we could have this oil actually cracked so that, regardless of the fact that it may have waste substance in it, it will be clear and good for lubricating uses. This matter is under study by the master-general of the ordnance, along with representatives of the research council; and I expect the extension of that service will be in accordance with whatever recommendation is made. I believe the study will be completed shortly.

The subcommittee recommended that consideration be given to possible savings by more extensive use of the government owned and controlled railway system for transportation, freight, express and telegraph service. That also is a matter up for consideration by a standing committee of the house.

There was the further recommendation that periodic and regular inspection of all stores should be made by the responsible officer of each service to determine if any stores are obsolete or no longer of use. Should this be the case, prompt action should be taken to salvage or dispose of these stores.

The action taken was that left-over materials from construction works are utilized on maintenance services. Data has been compiled on stocks that have accumulated for various reasons, and they have and are being diverted to other construction projects or districts. Condemned materials are submitted to the salvage board for disposal.

Those are the principal recommendations of which I have note.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): I desire to record my appreciation of the information which the minister has just given. I have one observation to make. Could there not be more coordination between the different departments of defence—army, navy and air? It is unfortunate that in some respects there are similar organizations in all three departments. The barriers should be broken down that make it difficult for the man in khaki to become intimate with the man in blue. The statement has been made that that difficulty does exist, and it is an unfortunate situation. We are all anxious to have a unified war effort, and I would like to see as much coordination as possible between all three branches of the defence department.

[Mr. Ralston.]

My last observation is this: Let us get on with this war. I could make extended remarks on every item and easily consume three hours in doing so, but this is not the time. Let us get on with the war as fast as we possibly can.

Mr. KINLEY: I desire to bring before the minister and the committee one or two things which I think are important. I was home during the Easter recess and during the plebiscite campaign and I discussed with many alert people in my riding questions of interest in my riding. I found that the farmers of my riding got the impression from radio addresses and from what appeared in the press that they were exempt from military training and therefore from military service, and that this exemption applied also to those engaged in the primary industries who had a background of farming. But I find that it is not so simple as that. The mechanics of it are a little involved. I am glad to say, however, that a press release went out from the Department of National War Services not long ago which I think should be widely distributed and appear in the press to a greater extent. It can readily be understood, after what has been said and broadcast about military service, that when a farmer's son gets a notice to report for medical examination he immediately runs to someone in authority and says, "I thought I was exempt". The actual conditions are very well explained in the press release issued by the Department of National War Services, which states that the farmer's son will be called up for medical examination but that he has eight days within which to put in a claim for exemption as a farmer's son or as a farmer, and that if on the 23rd day of March he was actively and efficiently engaged in agriculture that is all the reason he needs to advance to be granted an exemption. The board has no discretion in that case but must grant him a six months' exemption.

Mr. RALSTON: If he has a prima facie case.

Mr. KINLEY: Yes. But the farmers will not understand that so readily, and the actual conditions should be made plain to them. In my riding we had a splendid "yes" vote on the plebiscite. I think the town of Lunenburg voted "yes" eight to one, but in some outlying fishing districts all along the shore of Nova Scotia there was a considerable "no" vote. Naturally we asked ourselves why they voted no. The people in these districts are fishermen and sailors. A sailor ashore is rather out of his element. These people do not take