

Mr. HEAPS: I am told that it costs the government approximately \$2,000 per annum for each person who enters this institution, the Royal Military College, and I should like to know what the country gets in return for this amount. Is any track kept of the young men after they leave the institution? Do they enter the institution for the purpose for which it is maintained, or do they take up other vocations than those for which it was created.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): In my judgment, this is one of the finest investments of the Dominion of Canada. I do not think finer training is given in any other school in Canada. I visited the Royal Military College a few weeks ago and I believe they are carrying out one of the finest traditions of the dominion. The record of these boys in past years has been very encouraging and inspiring. They have gone into various professions and the surprising thing is that the majority of them have entered civilian life. Many have entered the various branches of the service in England and in this country, but in every case they have rendered valuable service to the development of the nation. In my judgment the Royal Military College is not only equal to any college of its kind in England or the United States, but superior to any similar college in the world.

Mr. HEAPS: I am glad to have the statement of the minister and I agree with much of what he has said, but one surprising piece of information he has given the committee is that a large percentage of these boys enter civilian life. In other words this college which is really for the purpose of training officers for the army is utilized for civilian purposes. That is one of the points I had in mind when I asked my previous question. If practically free training is given to a certain type of youth in this country, the same privilege ought to be extended to other people. I should like to know what training the boys receive in the college. I realize there is bound to be a certain amount of military training, but I understand that they receive instruction along other lines. Could the minister give the committee an idea of the training which they receive?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The cadets are trained along general educational lines although there is specialization in engineering development. Their training includes mathematics, civil engineering, surveying, physics, chemistry, French and English, and the discipline maintained is one of the

[Mr. Pouliot.]

most valuable features of the course. The gymnastic training and the outdoor exercises of all kinds undertaken by the cadets ensure their good health.

Mr. HEAPS: I understand that about fifty per cent go into the permanent forces.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I can give the figures.

Mr. HEAPS: For the last five years will be sufficient.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): In 1929-30, twenty-three per cent of the cadets took commissions; in 1930-31, thirty per cent; in 1931-32, seventeen per cent; in 1932-33 forty-seven per cent; in 1933-34, thirty-five per cent, and in 1934-35, the last year for which figures are available, forty-nine per cent.

Item agreed to.

Aviation—Royal Canadian Air Force—expenses in connection with the general maintenance and training of the permanent and non-permanent active air force, and provision of facilities therefor, \$4,130,000.

Mr. GREEN: Have any steps been taken to develop the air defences on the coasts of Canada?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Yes. That was one of the first problems before the department. As a matter of fact, the problem has been before the department for several years and certain plans were laid by my predecessor in office with reference to the study of coast defences, more particularly those in British Columbia. In the estimates for this year there is provision for increasing the air force accommodation at Jericho beach in Vancouver. There was projected by my predecessor in office and his advisers an amount of \$375,000 for the development of hangars and aprons at Jericho beach. The engineers have investigated the situation and have made recommendations and it has been decided that the situation is quite safe for a considerable development. Provision is made for new hangar accommodation with probably some further development to be made in the future. That is the situation with reference to the air forces. There is also projected a certain development, which I shall not mention, with reference to our naval defences in the same province, but that is taken care of in the naval estimates.

Mr. GREEN: Are no further steps being taken to build up the air defences on the Pacific coast?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The air defences will be increased from time to time as funds are available. This year certain