

*Supply—National Defence*

**Mr. Fulton:** I should like to ask the minister a question with regard to the properties for the three services which I understand—and I am proceeding on this basis—do not include houses being provided as accommodation but would probably include merely barracks and such other defence buildings, storage depots, and so on. The items under the navy, army and air force read:

Acquisition, construction, purchase, maintenance, repairs, rentals and operating expenses of properties.

There are many millions in each case. Can the minister tell us, firstly, what is the inventory value of the defence properties exclusive of houses which we now have, and how much is spent under these three headings of acquisition, purchase, maintenance and so forth? In other words, how many new properties are we developing this year, how many are we purchasing this year, and how much are we spending for the maintenance of existing ones?

**Mr. Claxton:** We have no inventory of the value of properties in the Department of National Defence. A great many of them have been in the department from confederation when they formed part of the property of the crown. For example, in Quebec we have the old citadel and numerous other properties. With regard to the expenditures on properties outside of those made by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation we have under "acquisition, construction and purchase of properties" the following:

Royal Canadian Navy Reserve .....	\$ 160,000
Navy General .....	5,183,000
Navy total .....	\$ 5,343,000
Canadian Army Reserve Force and C.O.T.C. ....	1,913,000
Canadian Army General .....	10,402,000
Northwest Territory and Yukon Radio System .....	160,275
Northwest Highway System .....	650,000
Army Total .....	13,125,275
R.C.A.F. Reserve .....	\$ 100,000
R.C.A.F. General .....	13,945,279
Northwest Staging Route .....	800,000
R.C.A.F. Total .....	14,845,279
Grand Total .....	\$33,313,554

For maintenance and repair of properties the total is \$16,601,905 and rental of buildings and properties, \$960,432.

**Mr. Fulton:** Has a decision yet been reached for what I am sure will be a small item in this large total to provide for a drill hall for the Rocky Mountain Rangers with headquarters at Salmon Arm, which drill hall was burned down about six months?

**Mr. Claxton:** That is one of the places receiving consideration, but I regret that there

[Mr. Claxton.]

is no express provision here for that building. As the hon. member will see, we have provided \$1,913,000 for the construction of reserve accommodation. How much of that is proceeded with and where will depend on when the plans can be made and the contracts let. We do propose this year to begin a modest program of reserve armoury accommodation at the places which seem to need it most.

**Mr. Harkness:** Under navy there is an item of \$2,304,900 for travel, transportation, freight and express. I presume that would be entirely travel by land and would not include travel in ships of the navy?

**Mr. Claxton:** That is right. It might include some marine transport for naval personnel proceeding to England to take courses. If there are no navy ships available we must pay their passage by sea.

**Mr. Harkness:** How much of that would be for travel, leaving out transportation, freight and express?

**Mr. Claxton:** The total for travel and transportation is \$1,189,900; freight and express, \$415,000.

**Mr. Harkness:** Would that include the cost involved in men going on leave?

**Mr. Claxton:** Yes. For example, the largest single item is for an estimated more than 2,000 personnel to be transferred from coast to coast at a cost of \$101 each. There is over \$200,000 right there.

**Mr. Harkness:** I was wondering whether it would include the cost of men going on leave because it seems to be quite a large item for travel by land by naval personnel.

**Mr. Claxton:** That is right, but it is due largely to the fact that our naval establishments are on the east and west coasts of the country. Whenever a man is transferred from one to the other he must go right across the country and there is no way to send him except by air or land.

**Mr. Harkness:** I notice that a large part of the increase in the vote for the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve is made up by the pay and allowances item, from which I would assume that it is expected there will be a considerable increase in the number of the naval reserve. If that is so I am glad it is taking place. Can the minister tell us the estimated increase?

**Mr. Claxton:** This vote is based on an estimated strength of 4,500 which would be averaged throughout the year. It represents an increase from the present figure of 3,619 at May 31 of this year, so there is an increase of something under 900.