

War Appropriation—Army

subsequent activities warranted. The present item provides for full equipment and reserves for every gun and mortar the Canadian army or any of its formations will have for the whole year. That is the simple explanation of it.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Does the army buy from the Department of Munitions and Supply, or direct from the plants?

Mr. RALSTON: Sometimes. There is an arrangement with the British under which ammunition is bought by the British. Since it is anticipated we shall be serving with the British, when we serve with them we will be furnished by them with ammunition. It will be Canadian ammunition. But, as in the last war, it is based upon a capitation basis; that is to say, so much per gun. The rounds are not counted; it is just simply a service for the guns which is provided by the British.

Mr. MacINNIS: Formerly the arsenal at Quebec, and other Canadian arsenals were under the control of the Department of National Defence. Is that so to-day?

Mr. RALSTON: It is under the Department of Munitions and Supply.

Mr. MacINNIS: I shall not discuss the matter further, then, at the present time.

Item agreed to.

On item 8—Armament, including rifles, machine guns, mortars and guns of all descriptions, \$123,070,907.

Mr. GRAYDON: Having in mind the matter of public security, can the minister make a statement as to the proportion of manufacturing in Canada of rifles, machine guns, mortars and guns of all descriptions?

Mr. RALSTON: About eighty-five per cent of small arms; that includes rifles, Bren guns and Stens.

Mr. GREEN: Have we not now reached the stage where our reserve army can be given complete equipment, including mechanical equipment? The minister praised the reserve army very highly the other day when he was making his statement, and I should like to join with him in paying tribute to them. They have done remarkably good work, but I think the time has come when they should get complete equipment, and I would ask the minister whether it is not possible for us to give them that equipment now. When the minister was speaking the other day he hinted that the reserve army were to be given additional responsibilities, particularly in the coastal areas, and he went on to say

[Mr. Ralston.]

that this would apply especially to infantry and anti-tank units. Is the time coming when Canada will have to depend upon the reserve army for the defence of her shores? If that is the plan, I suggest that we cannot give them complete equipment too soon. I should like also to have the minister make a statement with regard to the equipment of the Pacific Coast Rangers, for example. I do not believe they have received full equipment yet, nor have they been issued uniforms. When can they expect to get this equipment and these uniforms?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not in mind exactly the scale of equipment of the Pacific Coast Rangers, but I will look into that. In reference to their uniforms, I have a definite recollection of having authorized a special water-repellent uniform for them, I think only the week before last. I believe two uniforms per man are to be issued, one being water-repellent.

Mr. GREEN: Is that for all of them?

Mr. RALSTON: I have it in mind that the authorization was for 15,000 suits in all. With regard to equipment for the reserve army, it goes without saying that we will provide equipment just as quickly as possible. As my hon. friend knows, our equipment is not simply for the Canadian forces; it is for the allies as well. However, this year we expect to do considerably better than we have been able to do so far in connection with the equipment for the reserve army, in things like transport, carriers and matters of that sort. We have had some improvement already; as my hon. friend knows, we have formed pools in the different districts in order that units might have sufficient equipment to carry on their training, and I know they have responded well. I think they have shown a great deal of consideration in view of the fact that we have been short, but every bit of equipment is being used, I can assure my hon. friend, and we do plan to give the reserve army more equipment; I have just consulted my officer who has that matter in mind. I indicated exactly what I had in mind when I said that we were looking forward to giving the reserve army more responsibility in defence roles, particularly in connection with anti-aircraft work, and that will mean more equipment will be issued to them.

Mr. GREEN: Is there a plan that eventually they are to be relied upon to defend our shores?