

the fabric and the wooden struts, to see that no deterioration has set in which might jeopardize the lives of instructors or pupils. I think if the minister refers to journals published in the interest of civil aviation, he will find these very planes, that were in stock for some time, advertised some years ago at a price considerably lower than that paid by the government.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The information given me by my officials is quite different. These planes, before being placed in use, were overhauled, modernized and thoroughly inspected by competent inspectors. As far as I am concerned no representations were made to me by the Ottawa Car Company. I take my advice from officials of the department who are responsible and technically qualified in every way.

Mr. HEAPS: Have these planes all been delivered?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I think so.

Mr. COLDWELL: Is the statement correct that these same planes were offered for sale at lower prices several years ago?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I cannot say as to that because I was not in the department at that time. My information is that that is not the case, but I should not like to take the responsibility of stating that definitely, because I do not know.

Mr. COLDWELL: I would not press the minister to make that statement definitely now, but I would press him to look into the matter.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I will do so.

Mr. CAMERON (Cape Breton): I understood the minister to say that this expenditure is on the air route from Winnipeg to the west.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Yes.

Mr. CAMERON (Cape Breton): Entirely?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Yes, with possibly two exceptions. There are two improvements, one at Moncton, New Brunswick, and one at Dane, Ontario, in connection with this vote.

Mr. CAMERON (Cape Breton): Is any provision being made for the proposed imperial air route?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): This makes no provision for that; it is a matter of policy to be decided. There was, as my hon. friend knows, a conference last November and December in reference to that whole matter.

Mr. GREEN: Is there any provision in this estimate for the development of a transatlantic or transpacific air route?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): There will be a small provision for radio and meteorological service in connection with the development of the route from Newfoundland to Montreal. It was part of the provisional agreement reached here last December between the departmental heads of Canada, the Irish Free State and the United Kingdom, that such would be provided for by Canada. That will be in the supplementary estimates; I do not think it has yet been brought down.

Mr. GREEN: What is the present position in regard to a transatlantic air route?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): A provisional agreement has been arrived at between the countries I have mentioned. There was a conference of officials in Ottawa followed by a conference in Washington in conjunction with the officials of the United States government. Imperial Airways are going to commence immediately experimental flights across the Atlantic; I think equipment and preparations are being completed for them. It is estimated that the preparatory work will take approximately a year and that flying on a commercial basis cannot be undertaken before the beginning of 1938, when it may be assumed that we may have our trans-Canada system completed.

Mr. GREEN: How many civil air clubs are there now in Canada, and what is the position in regard to them? How does the government help them?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): There are twenty-two. A grant of \$5,000 is made to the flying association. As regards the clubs the sum of \$100 will be granted to each club in respect of each member who qualifies as a private pilot, and the sum of \$4 per flying hour up to a maximum of forty hours for each member continuing his training and qualifying for a commercial pilot's certificate. These clubs have a total membership of 2,400.

Mr. GREEN: Has the department made any move towards promoting research work in aviation? I understand that civil aviation