

Honourable C. D. Howe.

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whether in connection with the war effort or otherwise. In fact unless data of this nature is available, I do not think that any reasonable solution of the present difficulty is possible. I know of special cases where wives and families are here and the husbands overseas, other cases where the family of an R.A.F. officer is here, they came out with him from England and when he was recalled he was unable to get passenger accommodation for the return of his family and it is likely they will be here at least until the spring of next year. Another case is one of an eight roomed apartment being occupied by a wife of an officer and a maid with the officer overseas and the home of the wife in question just outside of Saint John, but being of independent means, she prefers to remain in Halifax. On the other hand there are many people here with husbands in the Services and doing very excellent war work, other similar cases with the wife doing nothing in the matter of helping the war effort. In other words a careful survey with a properly considered questionnaire would provide many avenues for study in the matter of depopulation, secondly the three services, Army, Navy and Air Force should be required to make an exceedingly close survey of all the men in their respective branches and decide whether or not there are cases where wives and families can be sent to their place of living prior to the war or show cause why they should remain here. The Navy should be required to provide barracks the same as the Army for their ratings and officers at the earliest possible moment, or transfer them to some other place for training and this will likely relieve the present congestion in housing to the extent of some five thousand. Consideration might well be given to the use of a portion of the Army's facilities at embarkation and training centres like Debert and Windsor for certain branches of the Navy. The training of naval men at Deepbrook, I understand is about 80% technical, 10% physical and 10% requiring water facilities. With proper co-operative effort between the Army and the Navy, I think some relief could be found if the problem were approached along these lines. I appreciate the question is delicate and possibly this suggestion made by a layman might be resented, but nevertheless if any progress is going to be made in the solution of this problem, it is going to require the closest co-operation between the Services and possibly some drastic measures to enforce depopulation.

As to control of people desirous of entering Halifax, my observations, after nearly eighteen months, lead me to the conclusion very definitely that many people come to Halifax for reasons other than business or war necessity. Any suggestions I have heard of in the matter of entrance control, have been in the main totally impracticable and my thought at the moment is, providing procedure along these lines should be taken, as to which I am not at all certain, is that some pass bureau would have to be created in Halifax and notification made through the press of Canada, that people would only be permitted to enter Halifax with a permit, after they had furnished good cause as to why they should come here, of a nature satisfactory to those charged with this responsibility, following which permit would be issued and when presented to any railway ticket agent in Canada would be the authority of the Agent to issue a ticket to Halifax, otherwise he would not be permitted to do so. Action along these lines would no doubt be generally resented, and at the moment I hardly think it is practicable and I give

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