

have the minimum of 5,000 men, and whatever more are needed to bring us up to the 15,000 a month.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): It will be in ratio of two to one, for the general service.

Mr. RALSTON: Yes, it would be, if it came to 10,000.

Another point with which I have great sympathy is the one raised by the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough with respect to the allocation of personnel called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act, to units from the territory or province from which they come. I found that situation out west, and there was a great deal of complaint. One Pacific coast unit in particular was feeling badly because the men from the middle west had been sent to it. It was simply a case where there were not sufficient men in that particular area at that time, and that unit had to be filled up, with the result that those men were sent in. That was the unit to whose commanding officer I said, "You are saying that we must have an all-out war effort, but you have a unit here which needs men. Those men are available. It does not seem to me that you should simply turn down these men because they do not happen to be from your particular area, or the area from which your unit comes." I said I sympathized with him sincerely, but at the same time we got through in the last war, and we did not turn our noses up at men from the west in the battalion I knew something about. We did not turn up our noses at men from the Pacific coast, the middle west, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg or anywhere else. I am afraid we shall have to take the same attitude to some extent in this war. Let me say, however, that every possible effort is being made to see to it that men are allotted to units from their particular territories, just as far as that can be done. Sometimes operational reasons make it necessary that units be filled with men from other places.

With regard to the men of seventeen and eighteen years, I believe that is really a question for the Department of National War Services rather than for my department. I have said that as far as I am concerned men can enlist at eighteen for trade training. What my hon. friend is suggesting—and as a matter of fact I had forgotten it—is that the regulations which provide that men of seventeen and eighteen must have permits before they can enter restricted occupations, should be changed. I shall be glad to take that matter up with the Minister of National War Services,

and see if it can be done. I am in sympathy with it. The ages of seventeen and eighteen are not, I think, on those regulations for the purpose of forcing men to enlist. At eighteen if a man can enlist in a trade it seems a pity to have him go into a non-essential civilian occupation.

Mr. HOMUTH: Under the man-power bill many industries which are employed 100 per cent on essential war work—I have in mind the textile industry, the shoe industry and many others—are classified as non-essential. I realize that the thought behind it is to drive men out of industry and into the army, and to fill their places with women. There is no denying that that is the object behind it. But here are thousands and thousands of boys who will be coming out of the high schools within the next few weeks. They cannot be employed in the industries in which they are so much needed. Those industries are classified as non-essential, whereas they are just as essential as many others. As I have said, the object is to drive men out and to replace them with women.

There is no reason whatever why these seventeen-year old boys should not be able to go into those industries which are working on war work and which are classed as non-essential under the act. They could go in for three or four months and do a very important job. To-day the only thing they can do under the act is to go on farms—the majority of them would be useless—or go into a munitions plant or a plant classified as an essential industry. Most of these boys would be useless in such plants because the type of men required are trained mechanics such as lathe men, machinists and so forth. These seventeen-year old boys are placed out on a limb, and yet these industries which are essential to the war but which are not classified as essential are denied the right to hire them. The industry of which I know the most is the textile industry, and the man-power handicap there has created a serious situation. We could overcome much of this if we had an opportunity of hiring these boys during the summer months, but we cannot; the only boys we can hire are those under seventeen years of age. It would be an easy matter to have an order in council passed to permit industries engaged in war work but classified as non-essential to employ these boys. It is only a matter of two or three weeks before they will be coming out of school and I think such provision should be made.

Mr. RALSTON: What I have said I meant, that is that I shall bring the matter to the attention of my colleague, the Min-