

*Supply—National Defence*

The figure for our non-battle casualties for the Canadian component of the allied army in Italy for one year, namely 1944—and I point out that these are non-battle casualties alone—was 38,973. The approximate average monthly strength of the Canadian component was 72,000. So that of the total average strength in the theatre for a year, one-half were non-battle casualties. The rate of casualties of all types—that is, battle as well as non-battle casualties—was 61 per 1,000 per month which, it would seem to me, means a figure of 720 over a 12-month period. With the casualty figures being worked out on this basis, and that is the only way we can arrive at it, it would seem that 720 or seven-tenths would be casualties, either battle or non-battle, in the course of a 12-month period. The provision for reinforcements must surely be based on the anticipated casualty rate, which must take in casualties from all sources and when you look at the figures for the last war, you can see that the problem of reinforcing the Korean brigade is a heavy one indeed, when you realize that in Italy the non-battle casualties for a year amounted to a total of one-half of the total actual strength in the theatre.

In this connection there is an interesting statement by Brigadier Rockingham, commander of the Canadian brigade in Korea, as reported in a Canadian Press dispatch which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* of April 19. It is dated Fort Lewis, Washington, April 18 and reads in part as follows:

Brig. John Rockingham said today Canadian casualties in Korea likely will be higher than they were in Italy and Normandy.

He told a press conference on the eve of the 6,000-man force's departure from nearby Seattle for Korea that if a commonwealth division is formed in Korea, Canada might have to send additional troops to that war theatre.

When one bears in mind the reports that you have, Mr. Chairman, as to what I might call generally sanitary conditions in Korea, I think it is highly likely that what Brigadier Rockingham said will be realized, taking into account the non-battle casualties alone; and, these, as the figures I have placed on the record will show, are equal to, if not greater than, the battle casualties, but they have just as great an effect from the point of view of wastage of forces. If then approximately half the average strength in Italy were non-battle casualties during the course of a year, and if with battle casualties included your average rate was 61 per thousand per month for Italy, and with the likelihood that it will be higher in Korea, then I suggest these figures show that we need to take a second look at the manpower problem confronting

[Mr. Fulton.]

this country in the light of the present program outlined by the government and the commitments which we have accepted.

We cannot afford to say to ourselves: "Let us not get excited, because this is peacetime; we cannot put forth an all-out effort." I am convinced, Mr. Chairman, that we shall be doing a disservice to the country, a disservice to the men who are fighting in the forces now, and a disservice to those whom we are asking to volunteer if we do not face these facts and have a full and frank discussion of the implication of these facts, and we shall be horribly guilty if we ever again run even the risk of a situation arising where men are committed to battle and we suddenly find we have not got the resources, nor have we planned and prepared to have the resources in manpower immediately available adequately to maintain these troops, we simply cannot take that risk, because men are now fighting and dying in Korea. Also bear in mind this, which I will refer to again in a few moments—we are asking men to enlist to go to Europe. There is no fighting in Europe at the moment, but these men will have to be ready to meet an enemy, and a fully trained enemy, at any moment. That is why they are being sent there. This house is not entitled to regard the recruiting of a brigade for Europe as merely another aspect of a peacetime army. That brigade is being trained and raised to send to Europe to take its place in the line with our allies in the North Atlantic organization, ready to resist aggression at a moment's notice—and a moment's notice is all they will have if the Russians should ever make the fatal decision to start the next world war.

When we look at our figures of recruiting I do not think we can find there a basis which would even entitle us to agree with the minister that the recruiting figures show that his program of 115,000 men in the three forces will be completed in a year and a half. The minister drew that conclusion from the figures of recruiting at the present time. It seems to me they show it would take over two years at the best, because although it is true enough that during January, February, March and April the average increase in the three services was over 2,000 a month, it is significant to note that during the month of April the intake was substantially less than it was during the previous month. It is also significant to note that it was higher in January, less in February and it was less again in March. The net intake for April, or an estimate of it, was given by the minister in his statement on May 8, and we find that the estimated over-all increase for that month was still less than it was the previous month.