

Supply—National Defence

of the House of Commons, that might be a different thing. He did not suggest that. I think my suggestion to him that he postpone everything for one year makes sense.

An hon. Member: Rescind the order in council.

Mr. Churchill: To rescind the order in council would be the easy way out, and that should be done. The minister gets a great deal of satisfaction out of referring to "one your age", meaning me. The fact that I participated in the first world war seems to have disturbed him. I was also in the second world war. Then he talks about my historical outlook on life and thinks it is smart to say that because something has been done for 50 years it should not necessarily be changed for the future. This is, of course, just utter rot and nonsense.

If Valcartier camp and the other camps in this country have been found to be satisfactory for 50 years, I say to the minister, show cause why it should be changed. The cause that resulted in the establishment of Gagetown was that we did not have facilities to train large bodies of troops together. That change was made. But the minister cannot show cause why we need more mortar ranges in this country. I do not know whether he even knows what a mortar is, what type of shell is fired from a mortar or the effect of it. The minister has not shown cause why this change should be made; yet callously and indifferently he is willing to expropriate property and drive out of their homes 25 families.

This is not in the national interest when it comes to military matters. There is no similarity between this and other examples that were used tonight. This change is simply required for military purposes, for warlike purposes, and for this reason the minister is going to dispossess 25 families of their homes. This is what we are objecting to, Mr. Chairman. I will make one final suggestion to the minister. Let us stand item 15 and let him think it over tonight, and we might pass the other items that are before us in committee.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Langlois (Chicoutimi): Mr. Chairman, may I put a question to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre?

Mr. Vincent: Since when are you the department's spokesman?

Mr. Langlois (Chicoutimi): Never mind the department, you had your turn.

Could the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, who stated many times, perhaps ten or twelve times, that Camp Valcartier, in the province of Quebec, has been a good training camp for the past 50 years, tell us tonight whether, according to him, there has been any change in the weapons made available to the Canadian Army in the past 50 years?

[*English*]

Mr. Vincent: That is the joke of the night.

Mr. Langlois (Chicoutimi): Mr. Chairman, perhaps the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre would prefer me to put my question in English, as he is of Irish descent.

Mr. Churchill: If the colleagues of the hon. member would remain quiet, I could hear him; but they make so much noise that I cannot hear what is going on.

Mr. Langlois (Chicoutimi): Since you are a former minister of national defence I suggest that you must be well aware of the fact that for the last 50 years there has been a great deal of change in weapons used by the Canadian army. If there has been such a change in weapons I suppose they need a different kind of camp in which to train the army. I ask the hon. member, is this possible?

Mr. Churchill: I do not know what my hon. friend's experience has been, but I know a fair bit about weapons and the changes in weapons over the years.

Mr. Langlois (Chicoutimi): Mr. Chairman, about 12 times today the hon. member has spoken about musketry training at Valcartier and about moving these families from the area of the camp. Does the former minister suggest that instead of moving these 25 families from Valcartier we should close Valcartier and ship it out west, maybe?

Mr. MacEwan: That was a good maiden speech.

Mr. Pugh: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering whether by now the Minister of National Defence has been able to obtain a little more detail with regard to the 3,000 troops that are to be trained at Valcartier each year. How many of these troops will be trained in the use of long-range mortars?

The minister has made no attempt to answer my question. I wonder whether he would answer it now. He is so busy perhaps looking the question up that he has not been able to answer it. I repeat, Mr. Chairman, that I was wondering whether the minister