

RESIGNATION OF MR. J. W. SANDERSON

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CRITICISM:

In connection with the manufacture of aeroplanes I should like to have from the minister some explanation as to why Mr. Sanderson of Fleet Aircraft Limited was brought into this work, and then a few months afterwards his services were dispensed with. Some explanation is due beyond the terms of the platitudes contained in the minister's letter to Mr. Sanderson at the time of his retirement. Is it possible that his position as head of aircraft production in Canada was inconsistent with his position as head of Fleet Aircraft Limited? The Minister should tell us the naked truth about this.

(Hon. R. B. Hanson, in House of Commons, Nov. 12, 1940 - Unrevised Hansard p. 28)

No reply made by Mr. Howe but see attached statement by Minister of National War Services.
(Montreal Star, Nov. 25/40)

Ottawa, Nov. 25—Hon. James G. Gardiner, Minister of National War Services, to-day named the Fleet Aircraft Corporation of Fort Erie, which is now engaged on war contracts, as the company which he had in mind when he told the House of Commons last week that one factory in particular had refused to send any men to the military training camps.

The Minister stated that the president and general manager of this company, W. J. Sanderson, had taken the attitude that none of his skilled workmen should be taken. His company had applied for exemptions and postponements for 49 men from the first two camps and the military review boards had granted postponements in 42 cases. The other seven were required to report for training.

Mr. Gardiner stated that Mr. Sanderson had been the only industrialist in Canada engaged on war contracts who took the attitude that he should not be required to release any of his men for military training. The Fort Erie company is now employing 1,000 men, and Mr. Gardiner understands that the number will be increased to 4,000. This company is engaged in manufacturing aircraft for the joint air training plan.