

*The War—Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury)*

3. We should also like to know from the minister the result of the recruiting campaign of June and July, and the results of the monthly recruiting campaigns, and specifically:

- (a) The method by which the quota for the general recruiting campaign and for the monthly campaign was settled. Was it based on population figures in a given military district?
- (b) The percentage which such quotas bear to the total population of military age within each military district.
- (c) The actual number of recruits which each military district was required to raise in the general recruiting campaign and has since been required to raise each month.
- (d) The actual number of recruits which each military district has raised.
- (e) The actual number of recruits in each military district who prior to enlisting were serving in Canada under the National Resources Mobilization Act.

Then from my friend the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) we desire a complete report on production. I do not suppose he will want to give us that after what I have said this afternoon, but I think he should give us at least a general survey of our production of all implements of warfare—tanks, guns, small arms, merchant vessels, naval vessels and so forth. We should also like to have from him an analysis in detail of the statement he made not so long ago that "we are now producing practically everything required by a fully equipped infantry division at a rate which enables us to equip a new division every six weeks." That, if true, is a remarkable statement.

Mr. HOWE: It is true.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Then I should like to tell the minister this, with respect to certain guns which were delivered in England to the first division. The day we visited them they had been waiting months to get these guns. They had only got four out of a total complement of eight, and that was nearly two years after they had gone overseas. So that to say that "we are now producing practically everything required by a fully equipped infantry division every six weeks" is just too much for my credulity.

I have already referred to gasoline conservation methods. I would now ask the minister to give to the house a full report on gasoline conservation methods and a specific statement of the action contemplated to increase the production of petroleum products in Canada and what additional conservation measures

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

may be necessary. I believe that the house and the country wish also to have from the minister a specific statement on the charges of the Joy Oil company.

Then from the Minister of National War Services (Mr. Thorson) we shall require information about the objectives of the government in calling up men under the National Resources Mobilization Act; about the enlistment of women in the armed forces, which will come to the fore more and more. Also we shall require information from the minister about the adequacy or otherwise of Canada's information services in the United States. I invite him to tell the house and the country the real truth, the real background of the resignation of Mr. Walter Zeller. Did Mr. Zeller in the course of his inquiry—and I have nothing against him—demand that he be given *carte blanche* on his own responsibility to spend the public moneys of Canada as, when and where he wished, without authority at all? Is that the true background? I do not know.

Mr. THORSON: The answer is no.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Well, that is an answer. What then was the reason for his dissatisfaction, and why did he actually resign? The reason is certainly not in the innocuous statements contained in the two letters that passed between the minister and himself. They do not mean a thing.

I should like to ask the minister about a report that appears in yesterday's press of a speech said to have been made by Mr. Lash, the director of public information, as follows—and I quote from the report in the press:

Public information has done some useful things, but like a number of other war departments it is entangled in the meshes of the red tape of an archaic system of government.

Is that a true statement? I do not know. Personally I believe in the control of the treasury of the country. One of the things I had against my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley) was that he departed in a degree, perhaps in a very large degree, from the well-grounded principles contained in the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act. It may have been necessary—I do not know enough about the *modus operandi* to judge. But here is a man who is charged with the responsibility of directing public information, and he says that he cannot do anything because departments are enmeshed in the red tape of an archaic system of government control. I am not accepting the statement on its face value as true, but I think we should have the matter elucidated. Why did he say that? If it is not true we ought to know.

I should like to have the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) report in