

not as a federal responsibility, but for the purpose of assisting those who owned plants, or civil authorities who had to do with roads, highways, bridges and things of that kind in order to see that they were guarded.

It is obvious that those places cannot be guarded by having a man walking up and down with a rifle, with bayonet attached, slung over his shoulder. Saboteurs do not come out in the open in that way. If you guarded a bridge in that way you would be more likely to find the saboteur under it than at the entrance to the bridge. All these are police jobs, and I mention it only to indicate to my hon. friend why, from a practical point of view, it is not the job of the Department of National Defence, or of a war department, to look after those matters. It is a civilian job.

Having said that, I wish to say secondly that I am not responsible, and I will admit no responsibility, nor is my staff responsible for the evacuation of the Japanese from British Columbia. There again I am vitally interested, because my hon. friend is quite right that I want to see to it that avenues to and from British Columbia are kept open in order that reinforcements and munitions may be moved in there, and in the most rapid manner. Our plans are with regard to the distribution of troops so that that can be done. I can only say to my hon. friend that I know nothing about the exact local conditions to which he refers, but I shall certainly bring the matter to the attention of my colleagues who have that problem in hand. If there is any necessity for guards or any necessity to move these Japanese from the place in which they are, I shall do my very best toward seeing that it is done. Let me say to him that, as I understand it, these Japanese are in the process of being moved from British Columbia. I understand that the reason why they are in these boxcars at the present time is because accommodation is not ready for them at the place to which they are to go. They are not going to stay there forever by any means. Just as quickly as accommodation is ready, they will be moved.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I think words have been imputed to me that I did not say. I do not blame the Minister of National Defence for this; but I do suggest, to use his own words, that any inlet into the province of British Columbia or the Pacific coast is a matter of national defence. I am not suggesting for one minute that the Department of National Defence should police these bridges or roads—

Mr. RALSTON: Or cars.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Or cars. What I am saying is that the Department of National Defence should not permit boxcar after boxcar loaded with Japanese to be left along the main inlet, in fact the only inlet to the Pacific coast defences. I am not saying that the Department of National Defence should do police duty, but I think that department should see that the civilian department responsible should move them off the main highway.

Mr. RALSTON: I want to say to my hon. friend in justice to my staff that I thought he was quite unfair when he suggested that the staff of the Department of National Defence were letting us down in that respect. The staff of the Department of National Defence are as vigilant as they can be in connection with the work they have to do, and many jobs have been placed on their shoulders from time to time. When a matter of this kind is brought to my attention, I shall see that it is brought to the attention of the proper minister.

Mr. WHITE: There are two or three matters I should like to bring to the attention of the minister and perhaps I can mention them all at once. The first point is in connection with reinforcements for the army overseas. In bringing up this matter I realize fully that the minister may be rather reluctant to make a statement or to give information on this subject; but at the same time he is no doubt aware, as are all hon. members, that during the past few months several hundred or perhaps several thousand officers, non-commissioned officers and men have returned to Canada from England. I think I am safe in saying that probably all hon. members must have heard the various reports—perhaps they are only rumours—as to the number of available reinforcements with the units and the holding companies in England. Various articles by different people have appeared in the press, and I would refer the minister to the *Ottawa Citizen* of Tuesday, April 28, which contains an article on this matter. I shall quote briefly from it, as follows:

In a series of editorial articles, the *Globe and Mail* has suggested that many units of the Canadian corps overseas are lacking a proper supply of trained reinforcements. The same opinion was voiced by a man who was a distinguished staff officer in the last war in a recent issue of the *Ottawa Journal*.

And again:

Captain David Croll, former mayor of Windsor, and a minister in the Ontario cabinet, has publicly declared on the floor of the Ontario legislature that the Canadian army needs reinforcements, and needs them badly.

And again:

Colonel Ralston, the Minister of National Defence, met these criticisms with a blanket