

not very much heard of; they are somewhat like the veterans guard of whom an hon. member spoke last evening; nobody knows very much of their activities; but I think Canada and the United Kingdom have reason to be very much satisfied with the effectiveness of the work they have done. Having regard to the terrific amount of munitions and supplies which have come off the lines in this country and also in the United States in the way of components, and the comparatively few instances of failures, it seems to me that the inspection board is entitled to a word of tribute and of appreciation.

It was in January, 1941, that the joint board began, although some of the inspection staff from the United Kingdom were over here considerably before that time. They had to build from the ground up, and build under conditions in which technical personnel were being required in the various industries just as much as they were for purposes of inspection. They have had the job of creating that organization, not only administratively, but technically, and of installing it and seeing that it worked in the various industries cooperatively with, and not combatively with, industry. I believe the results which have come from their work have been highly gratifying.

As members of one of the house committees know, manufacturers have themselves to a certain extent put in their own inspectors as well, I assume in order to preserve their own reputations and save time and labour by catching defects at an early stage. Duplication of inspection has lessened, I understand, to some extent as time has gone on, and in view of the mutual confidence which has developed in the inspectors of the board, and those of the manufacturers.

I do not think there is anything I can add to the discussion. The financial arrangements generally are satisfactory. The administration is carried on by the officers of the board without any interference on the part of the United Kingdom government or ourselves except in connection with matters of policy through Major-General Lock, the chairman, or Brigadier Howard, who is on the floor this afternoon. There has been a certain amount of capital expenditure, for instance, for proof ranges built in order to conduct tests, but the great bulk of expense is in connection with the operating departments.

Mr. ADAMSON: They operate the range at Burlington?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes.

Mr. ADAMSON: That is completely under the United Kingdom?

[Mr. Ralston.]

Mr. RALSTON: Under the joint board.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I have had two general criticisms from the management of plants I have visited regarding employees of this board. I do not know whether they are general or just local, or whether they have come to the minister's attention. First, managers have told me that in their particular plants employees of this board usually stop work and begin to prepare to leave the plant ten or fifteen minutes before quitting time, and that that has had an effect upon the regular employees of the plant, who are expected in the interests of production to stay at their machines until the last minute of their time. Second, several employees have pointed out to me or have shown the difference in the numbers of employees employed by this board for inspection as compared with the number of company inspectors in the same plant, and have intimated that in many instances there were more personnel than were required for the job. Are these just local conditions? Have they come to the minister's attention?

Mr. RALSTON: With regard to employees of the board getting ready to leave ahead of time, I am satisfied that that is a local situation, but it is one which of course cannot be permitted to exist, and, knowing the management of the board, I am sure they would not have it go on if it were brought to their attention. The policy is that the inspection staff shall stay till the last minute, the same as anybody else. If my hon. friend would care to give me the name of the plant to which the complaint refers I will see that it is transmitted to the board and investigated.

Mr. GRAYDON: Do the hours of these employees parallel in each case those of the plant?

Mr. RALSTON: Generally speaking that is the rule, that they work parallel hours. The administrative officer states that there are exceptions, and the exceptions he speaks of are where a plant may be working three shifts and the inspection employees may work only one, because it is obvious that they might inspect in eight hours what would take three eight-hour shifts to manufacture. But I can say this, for I know, that the strict policy of the board is that their inspections must keep up with the outturn so that there shall be no slowing down of production on account of inefficient inspection facilities.

In reference to the number of factory inspectors, there again I think that may be a local situation, and it must be owing to the fact that the particular manufacturer is not inspecting and does not purport to inspect and does not have to inspect with as much com-