

Pacific coast at the time, a good many of them must have been there for training purposes, perhaps for only a few weeks or a month. I was there in late October, and my recollection is there were about thirty doctors at that time. Even some of those were doctors merely attached to the base for the necessary training and disciplinary course. I think the average number of doctors in the navy is something like four for every 1,000 men, or one for every 250 men.

Mr. McCANN: I suggest to the armed services that, if there is and continues to be a shortage of medical men, young men who are of age and practising medicine throughout Canada be inducted into the armed forces, and that it be unnecessary for them to take basic training. Let them return to their civilian practices, but be on call at any time at twenty-four or forty-eight hours' notice. I believe this suggestion would work out well. If the time comes when we have to send increased reinforcements overseas, and it becomes necessary to augment the numbers in the medical services, then in from forty-eight to seventy-two hours those men already inducted into the medical corps of the armed services could on short notice report for duty.

Mr. RALSTON: The leader of the opposition asked a question as to the number of doctors in the three services. As at April 30, 1943, my figures show: navy, 301; army, 2,135; air force, 683, making a total of 3,119. From July, 1942, to the present date the following have been assigned by the medical assignment and procurement board: for the navy, 100; for the army, 677; for the air force, 181.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): At Camp Borden a clinic has been set up by chiropodists of Toronto. Have any other camps chiropodist clinics? Are any being taken in, and what training are they being given? I know of a number of men who, when on leave, in order to remain in the army, have gone to chiropodists, and have also bought special shoes or boots so as to participate in the marching.

Mr. RALSTON: I am told that the services of chiropodists are being utilized at many of the big camps. Camp Borden is the only camp at which a class is being carried on. As the hon. member knows, the Royal Canadian Army Medical corps training centre is at Borden, and that would be the natural place to train chiropodists.

Item agreed to.

On item 6—Signal and wireless equipment, line construction, et cetera, \$27,826,751.

Mr. GREEN: How much of this is for installations overseas, and how much for Canada? Why should there be an increase of practically 100 per cent?

Mr. RALSTON: The amount shown as expended for 1942-43 is what was actually expended, under existing conditions. It was anticipated that a great deal more would have been expended but, in view of the comparative inactivity, it was not. The reason for the difference is the increased equipment and reserves, looking forward to the possible activity of this fiscal year.

Mr. GREEN: Is it practically all to be expended in Canada?

Mr. RALSTON: This money?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: Canadian wireless, particularly, is really just coming into its own, so far as extensive production is concerned. In the past there has been a great deal of expenditure on wireless sets of the United Kingdom. We have developed two or three sets of our own which are particularly good, and of which we are rather proud; and there will be a very much larger proportion spent in Canada this year.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Does this take in teletype machines? I understand that up to a few months ago if repair work had to be done outside Ottawa, an Ottawa repairman did the work. At the same time there was a man in the services, stationed at Kingston, who, although a good repairman, was never used. The Ottawa man was always called in.

Mr. RALSTON: If that happened I think it was an instance of poor administration. The director of signals will make inquiry into the matter. Repair districts are set up throughout Canada, and of course there will be a distribution of workmen.

Item agreed to.

On item 7—Ammunition and bombs, \$273,325,890.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Why is this item fifteen times greater than it was last year?

Mr. RALSTON: For the same reason I gave the hon. member for Vancouver South in connection with another item. This item, also, was much larger in last year's estimates than