

a distinctive armband and will be sworn in and taken on the militia strength for home guard duty only and not for duty outside of Canada. They will be given militia rates of pay for time spent in training and will not be placed on Canadian active service force pay and allowances.

An opportunity for several thousand veterans to serve in this capacity will be afforded, and instructions are being issued at once to district officers commanding to commence recruiting as soon as administrative arrangements can be completed.

The enabling order in council was prepared and signed last week by the late Hon. Norman Rogers for submission to council. This normally would have been considered on Monday last. It was approved by privy council yesterday.

VOLUNTEER CIVIL GUARDS

ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR INTERNAL SECURITY TO BE SUPPLIED BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Hon. C. G. POWER (Acting Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have two telegrams which with the indulgence of the house I should like to read. They deal with the civil volunteer question. Though this is a telegram addressed by a provincial authority to the Minister of National Defence, in view of the widespread interest in such matters I believe both the request and the reply should be communicated to the house. I quote:

Hon. C. G. Power,
Minister of National Defence,
Ottawa, Ont.

By letter dated June fifth I asked the late Hon. Mr. Rogers to what extent arms and ammunition might be available to this government for the purpose of arming volunteer civil guards. No reply to that letter received probably on account of untimely and most regrettable decease of Mr. Rogers. The matter is now of great urgency because of repeated and insistent requests for arms to arm guards throughout the province. Please advise as soon as possible.

G. D. Conant,
Attorney General.

To which I replied in a telegram addressed to the Hon. G. D. Conant, attorney general, Toronto:

Reply your telegram June thirteenth. Every available rifle and all available ammunition that can be spared have been placed at the disposal of the mother country at their urgent request in the present real and immediate emergency at the gates of Paris. As you must know, compliance at once with this request has been of the most vital importance. Arms under our control required for purposes of internal security will be issued only by the federal government through the Department of National Defence when considered necessary.

COMMONWEALTH AIR TRAINING

ENUMERATION OF UNDERTAKINGS—PROCEDURE IN SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SITES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. C. G. POWER (Acting Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make an announcement in connection with the empire air training plan.

As has already been intimated in the house and country, the empire training plan involves the expenditure of large sums of money in aerodrome development and construction. From time to time specific projects have been announced in the press as having received approval but up to the present it has been impossible to produce a composite and broadly informative statement of the works programme in hand, under way or to be begun within the next few weeks.

The enumeration of the undertakings which I propose to place on *Hansard* is not fully comprehensive of all the work which will be carried on this summer. It includes the most urgent projects. These we intend to complete by September next.

Before proceeding with this enumeration, perhaps the house will bear with me if I give in some detail an explanation of methods pursued by the departments concerned in arriving at the selection of aerodrome sites.

In view of the strong and energetic representations made by municipalities and public bodies across the country that schools, depots and units of the plan should be placed within their respective localities, it is, I think, advisable to inform the house of the procedure followed in arriving at a final decision for the selection of aerodrome sites.

There were five categories of airports or aerodromes in Canada before the plan was put forward at all.

1. Aerodromes owned by the crown and controlled by the Department of National Defence for Air (Royal Canadian Air Force). These aerodromes were in existence prior to the outbreak of war.

2. Aerodromes owned by the crown and operated by the Department of Transport for the benefit of civil aviation in Canada including Trans-Canada Air Lines.

3. Municipal aerodromes owned by municipalities and developed in many cases with federal funds and technical assistance. Most of the flying clubs operate from these aerodromes.

4. Intermediate landing grounds owned by the crown, located at one hundred mile intervals across Canada, operated by the