

Supply—National Defence

great misunderstanding or lack of apprehension of what the reserve army is doing. First of all, we have had no trouble in getting personnel to camp. There may be two or three men who cannot get away because of their occupation—as the minister says, in such companies as steel companies, foundries, et cetera. I know of the odd man who cannot get away. But on the whole we have 100 per cent co-operation from employers.

With regard to training, as most of you know by now, I am second in command of the 8th Princess Louise New Brunswick Hussars. We have been spending a terrific amount of money for the last two years. Two years ago we started to add up for ourselves what we were getting for this money, and we found that we had a great number of men partially trained but that we had nobody fully qualified. That situation applies not only to our own unit but to many others. So in order to show some results, we thought we should qualify tradesmen. An armoured unit is composed probably of more tradesmen than is any other type of unit. I am subject to correction there, but in any event we have a high percentage of tradesmen. To go with week-end training and local training, we ran several courses of ten days' duration to finish up the qualification of tradesmen. We now have 117 tradesmen qualified. Those were qualified by an active force trade test board; they are now fully qualified and are drawing trades pay along with their pay and allowances, the same as the active forces.

With regard to summer camp, I think the object is to exercise these tradesmen who are now qualified and those who have partly qualified. In other words, our whole object is to produce a regiment fully qualified and able to take the field. The criticism was made a moment ago that composite companies had to be made up in order to exercise tactically at camp. That is not the purpose of camp, as I understand it. As the minister said, it is more a corps school. I would hate to see this change. We can exercise companies locally but at summer camps we have the best instructors and the best facilities and I think it would be a great mistake not to exercise our men in the trades in which they are qualified.

Mr. Harkness: In connection with this matter of getting men to go to camp, it so happens that I had a conversation with a reserve force officer in Ottawa here yesterday, and whom I met by chance. He made the complaint that it was difficult; in quite a number of cases, personnel in his unit who worked in the civil service either were not able to get away or were discouraged from

going because it was going to make it awkward in their respective offices. According to his story it was intimated to some of these people: All right, they were entitled to go to camp under the rules, but if they went to camp, when it came time for certain promotions which might be in the offing, as far as they were concerned they might find themselves in difficulty. If that sort of thing prevails to any extent in the civil service—and I think it applies only to a limited number of cases—then it is a thing which the Department of National Defence and the government should make sure is eradicated so that there will be no question about people being able to go to camp because of, we will say—and perhaps this might be the right word—intimidation within their department of the civil service. I do not know whether anything definite can be done by the minister.

Mr. Claxton: What the hon. member has described is directly contrary to the policy of the federal government as expressed by the governor in council.

Mr. Harkness: Yes, I know it is.

Mr. Claxton: Instructions have been given to all government departments accordingly. If such a case of intimidation or implied intimidation ever occurs, then I think it would be the duty of every hon. member to—and I am fairly sure any hon. member who had the evidence would—mention it to me or ventilate it here. It has never been brought to my attention. If any such case does occur, I hope hon. members will bring it to my attention.

Mr. Harkness: As to the acquisition and construction of buildings and properties for the army, of the \$22 million which is to be spent this year, how much is for housing?

Mr. Claxton: It would take a few minutes to pick the items out of the lists so as to total the amount for housing, but the total would not be very much. We are not doing defence housing at other than the most isolated localities. C.M.H.C. is doing all the ordinary housing for the defence department. But included in this year's estimates would be a number of relatively small items to finish up existing contracts and to provide for housing at isolated centres.

Mr. Harkness: One other question about the cadet service: I see the estimate for that is down. I hope it does not mean that the cadet services are being curtailed.

Mr. Claxton: No, there is no decrease in activities. The number of cadets provided for, the amount of training and the amount of payments of grants and for instructors are on the same basis. The decrease is explained

[Mr. George.]