

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Will the honourable gentleman give the figures for the discharges during that period?

Hon. Mr. BENCH: I should like to be able to accommodate the honourable gentleman from Saskatchewan North, but I am afraid I have not those figures. I said that at the end of December 1943—last December—our total enlistments were 908,169.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: For the Army alone, or does that also include the Navy and the Air Force?

Hon. Mr. BENCH: All services. That is about 38 per cent of the male population of this country in the age group of 18 to 44 years of age, as compared with 33 per cent in the last war.

When I bring the figures up to the end of October of 1944, I find that our total enlistments are 972,330, which is almost 41 per cent of our male population in that same age bracket.

Now, it does seem to me that this is a record of which we need not be ashamed. The purpose of fighting wars is not, of course, to inflate our national pride; but all I am saying is that having done so much I think we might very well shut-off the pump, send the photographers away and take our soiled laundry quietly home.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): Honourable senators, I should like to ask the honourable gentleman how many of the 972,000 troops were active, and how many were non-active or Canadian home defence troops?

Hon. Mr. BENCH: In so far as I know, these figures include enlistments both under the N.R.M.A. and in the active army.

While I am on the subject of comparisons, perhaps honourable senators will permit me to bolster this branch of my case by reference to an article which appeared in the Financial Post, under date of November 11. The article, which gives some interesting figures, reads in part as follows:

To help appraise what Canada is doing and trying to do in this war we have worked out the following comparisons. These figures are not set down as grounds for smug complacency or to suggest that we are doing too much, or even enough, in this war.

Between the last war and this, the Canadian population increased roughly 60 per cent. The first column below shows a few of the facts about our war effort last time. The second column increases those figures by 60 per cent.

Hon. Mr. BENCH.

That is to place them on a comparative basis with the increase in our population.

The third gives current figures for this war.

The first item shows that in the last war we had 6,823 men in the Navy. Adding sixty per cent to this figure to place it on a comparative basis with the increase in our population, would make it 10,916. Actually in this war we have 90,000 in the Navy.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: May I say to my honourable friend that in the last war we had virtually no navy at all.

Hon. Mr. BENCH: I understand that. The effect of these figures is best illustrated when one takes them as a whole. I could not very well give the figures that are here without making reference to the Navy.

In the Air Force in the last war we had 21,169. Adding 60 per cent to bring it up to the comparable basis, we should have 33,870. We actually have 204,000.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: May I point out to the honourable gentleman that in the last war we did not have an Air Force. The figures he is giving must be of Canadians who served in the Royal Air Force. Is that a fact?

Hon. Mr. BENCH: I have no doubt that is a fact.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Where do these figures come from?

Hon. Mr. BENCH: I am quoting them from the Financial Post. That is not a publication that is known as being friendly to the Government.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I remember that a good many years ago it was said in another place on behalf of the Government of the day that the figures of Canadians serving in the Royal Air Force could not be given. I wonder where the Financial Post got its figures.

Hon. Mr. BENCH: I am sorry I am unable to give my honourable friend from Edmonton that information. I am assuming that these figures must have been secured from some authoritative source.

In the Army in the last war we had 454,585 men. Adding sixty per cent to make this figure comparable with our increase in population, we should have 727,336. Actually we have 764,000.

On the item of war supply, in the last war there was spent by Canada one billion and 69 million dollars. The addition of 60 per cent would give us a figure of one billion 710 million dollars. Actually we have spent in this