

Mr. RALSTON: The school is being conducted in collaboration with the British war office. I think there have been three classes so far. I am speaking from memory. As I indicated to the committee the other night I think there were twenty-four in the first class. The purpose of the training of these officers is in connection with the occupation of enemy countries. I know of some officers who are already engaged in connection with that work in Italy, and who were in Sicily. My hon. friend wants to know the type of officers. I can tell him generally speaking they are of the sort who would have some knowledge of municipal government or the management of municipal public utilities. They are men who would be engineers, people of that class. Linguistic requirements are not so much a necessity. There are also some teachers, as I understand it, in connection with some special lines. Their use, generally speaking, is in connection with occupied territories.

Mr. JACKMAN: How many officers does the minister intend to train in that school altogether?

Mr. RALSTON: I was in error a moment ago in my reference to these classes; the first group has just graduated and the second is just going in now.

Mr. JACKMAN: How large is the scheme intended to be?

Mr. RALSTON: There is a school in England, a school in Canada and a school in the United States.

Mr. JACKMAN: But how many men does the minister intend to put through this school?

Mr. RALSTON: It depends upon the supply in England. Our officers are going from the Canadian army in England to the school over there, and it will depend upon how many are required altogether. We are collaborating with the British in that respect. I cannot tell

my hon. friend; it may be that this school will not continue. It just depends upon how many are needed, for all we know the school in England can take all that we have available.

Mr. ADAMSON: What is the length of the course?

Mr. RALSTON: Two months.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of National Defence for Air): Mr. Chairman, I propose to-night to give perhaps a more detailed and comprehensive statement of the affairs of the Royal Canadian Air Force than has been my custom in past years. That is for two reasons. We have reached a phase in our war-time existence, as far as the air force is concerned, which marks the end of one part, and an important part, of our work, namely the air training, and we are on the threshold of beginning the more important part of the work, the fruition, the fulfilment of what has been going on for the past three years, namely the well prepared attempt—and I am almost sure the successful attempt—finally to wrest air supremacy over Europe from our enemies.

I have certain financial statements here. I do not wish to trouble the committee by reading them; if I have consent I will place them on *Hansard* and see to it that the members of the groups opposite receive copies at once. The first statement deals with the cash estimates for 1944-45, and shows that the total cash requirement of the Royal Canadian Air Force for the fiscal year 1944-45 is \$1,090,000,000.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Is it broken down?

Mr. POWER: Yes, very much. The statement is as follows:

Royal Canadian Air Force

Cash Estimates 1944-1945

1. Total Requirements.—Total estimated cash requirements of the Royal Canadian Air Force for the fiscal year 1944-1945, is: \$1,090,000,000.
2. Probable expenditure for the fiscal year 1943-1944 is: \$1,189,402,327.
3. Detailed requirements for 1944-1945, compared with probable expenditure for 1943-1944, are:

	1943-1944	1944-1945	Increase or Decrease	Percent
British commonwealth air training plan	\$ 474,200,502	\$ 387,937,507	(\$86,262,995)	(18·14)
Western hemisphere operations ...	309,900,000	238,905,351	(70,994,649)	(22·9)
Overseas	405,301,825	463,157,142	57,855,317	(14·32)
Totals	\$1,189,402,327	\$1,090,000,000	(\$99,402,327)	

It will be noted from the above that, notwithstanding an expected increase in overseas expenditures of approximately \$58,000,000, there is an over-all reduction of approximately \$99,000,000. This means that the British commonwealth air training plan and western hemisphere operations will require approximately \$157,000,000 less than in the previous year.