

*War Appropriation—Army*

reinforcements from the same district was a good one. It led to a sentiment favouring recruiting, and improved local feeling in the municipalities and districts in which the units were formed.

A change was made before the present minister took office. However, I never could see the value of the new system, because I thought it hurt recruiting to some extent. Certainly it hurt recruiting in some of the older provinces, where old units were established which took a great deal of interest in the people in those districts.

For instance, let us consider No. 2 military district, the largest in Canada. Recruits enlisting in Toronto are sent to Vancouver, right across the country. This may be national in spirit, but it has worked out very badly for the taxpayers in that community. The result is that the two great railway systems in Canada, through carrying these men, have made a great deal of money.

This section has been under discussion for several days, and the subject matter is almost exhausted. Most questions of policy have been discussed. I do not wish to delay the passage of the item, but there is one matter about which I would ask the minister, and to which I would ask him to direct his attention. I refer to the records office. I appreciate the records kept. I can understand the great amount of work done by the records office in going over attestation papers of 700,000 to 800,000 men. That is indeed a big job, one which even a private insurance company would require a long time to do.

But there is something to be said in favour of a better system of keeping records. For instance, in connection with victory loan campaigns, and the records kept concerning income tax and matters of that kind, one can learn immediately what each municipality has contributed. Then, the information can be broken down into municipalities. I know municipalities need this information, because after the war soldiers will be coming home, and they will say they came from Toronto, Hamilton, London, Brockville, or some other point in the dominion. They will point out that they are citizens of certain municipalities. After all, this is a citizens' army, and when a man joins it he should not lose his civilian status.

I know a change in records is a hard job, and I believe the minister for the army has done a great deal in this connection. I am hoping however, that his two colleagues, namely, the ministers for the navy and the air force, will do the same thing. These records must be made available to the municipality,

[Mr. Church.]

because they will need them after the war. These soldiers will come home, and they will want to have this information in their home localities.

I know that men from No. 2 district have gone as far as Vancouver to enlist. Many sons of families in my constituency did not wait to get back to Toronto, but enlisted in Vancouver, Calgary, or any other point where they happened to be. For that reason the records are not up to date, so far as Toronto is concerned.

I think the minister did very well when he decided to follow the British practice in having a break-down of the religious denomination shown on the army attestation papers. This information was sought not from a purely religious point of view, but rather in an effort to try to get a total war effort from all the religious bodies of the country. Sessional paper 356 was tabled to-day and contains the following information:

What are the number of officers and men in the active service forces of the army, navy and air force, with their religious affiliations as set out on their attestation papers down to the end of 1942?

So far as the Canadian army (active) is concerned, the reply to the question is given on a percentage basis in accordance with the statement of the minister appearing on page 1960 of *Hansard* dated 7th April, 1943. Percentages of those called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act are not yet available.

Religious denominations	As of 31st March, 1943	
	Per cent	
Roman Catholic.....	29.76	
Church of England.....	25.55	
United church.....	20.96	
Presbyterian.....	10.84	
Baptist.....	5.53	
Lutheran.....	2.27	
Jewish.....	1.07	
Methodist.....	1.05	
Salvation Army.....	0.43	
Congregational.....	0.02	
Other denominations.....	2.36	
No religion or religion not stated...	0.16	

That return contains some very good information, but I do not understand why the percentage basis has been adopted. I believe the numbers of each enlistment should be given.

Another matter is the quotas set for the different military districts. In the victory loan campaigns they have a quota system; they asked the city of Toronto to subscribe \$238,000,000; then they raised it to \$276,000,000, and the city has actually subscribed about a billion dollars. I do not believe in a percentage system like this. I believe in the British system which was in effect in the last