

Munitions and Supply

now actually under way—a plant of about the same size, but for the manufacture of a different type of explosives, for the Anglo-French purchasing board, partly for account of the French government, and partly for the British government. Here again Canada is building the plant and will operate it for their account.

There is a third large undertaking for the joint account of the Canadian and British governments, a shell-filling plant costing a very large sum of money. Here again the Canadian government is building the plant and will operate it for joint account. These are only the three largest of undertakings which have been under way for some time or are now being proceeded with; but they are all to be operated in the same way.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Having regard to the important announcement the minister has just made, has he any statement to make with respect to shell contracts, for the account either of the Canadian government or of the British and French governments, with plants in different places in Canada? The question is one which is occupying the thought and attention of many people in Canada. In my town many shells were made in the last war, and there are men willing to go ahead and do the same to-day. I am told that in New Glasgow in the last war they made 25,000,000 shells, and that plant is more or less idle to-day. I hope consideration will be given to spreading these contracts among the smaller communities rather than concentrating all the work in one or two very large plants in the centre of the country.

Mr. HOWE: The position of shell orders is such that in a very short time I think it will be possible to do the very thing my hon. friend suggests.

MALTON AIRPORT

REQUEST THAT DOMINION ASSUME MAINTENANCE OF ROAD CONNECTING WITH PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): I should like to direct an inquiry to the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe). At yesterday's session of the Peel county council I understand that a resolution was passed asking the dominion government to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the road running west from Richview on the provincial highway to the Malton airport. In view of the greatly increased traffic over this road to the aeroplane plant, the Trans-Canada depot and the commonwealth air training plan unit, will the government give immediate consideration to the proposal?

[Mr. Howe.]

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Munitions and Supply): My hon. friend was good enough to give me notice of this question. The building of highways is of course the responsibility of the city, municipality, county, or province. Under the British North America Act the dominion government is not involved in the building of highways.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They went into it pretty deeply in years gone by.

Mr. HOWE: The county in question is not above collecting a large sum in taxes from the industries at the Malton airport, and this seems to be particularly a time when anyone charged with a responsibility should undertake to assume it. Perhaps I might add that as a member of the federal government greatly concerned about that particular highway I shall be delighted if those responsible for the highway will assume their responsibility quickly.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PROTECTION OF POWER PLANTS—QUESTION OF UTILIZING LINCOLN AND WELLAND REGIMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. NORMAN J. M. LOCKHART (Lincoln): In the light of the increasing necessity for power and the protection of power plants and other transportation facilities, would the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power) be good enough to take into consideration the question of utilizing the recently disbanded Lincoln and Welland regiment for guard purposes instead of bringing more permanent units into the peninsula for that purpose?

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of National Defence for Air): Yes.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW DEFENCE OF CANADA REGULATIONS

The house resumed from Wednesday, June 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie King for the appointment of a committee to consider and review the defence of Canada regulations passed under the War Measures Act.

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, may I commend my hon. friend the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) whose reputation as a great criminal lawyer did not suffer yesterday, for the views he so vigorously and ably expressed in his speech in this debate. With all of those views I am in hearty accord. He referred to the excellent work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I give place to no one in my admiration of that splendid