

Mr. MacNICOL: I would like to bring to the minister's attention a case I have had with the board. A gentleman in Toronto made application to the board in 1941 and sent to the board some carefully prepared testimonials which were important to him because they had been given to him by responsible persons and companies. He has never been able to have these testimonials returned to him. He was informed a little while ago that they were lost. To-day in conversation with an officer of the board I was informed that they cannot be found. It is gross carelessness to have such an inefficient filing system in the board, and I should be pleased if the minister would give this matter his attention and make inquiries about it. I will send him the correspondence I have.

Mr. RALSTON: I appreciate my hon. friend's bringing the matter to my attention. I have just spoken to the officer who is in charge of the administration of the board and he will have a check made, but I should like to get in touch with my hon. friend or with his correspondent to get a little more information as to the date.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is this sum of \$10,600,000 contributed on an equal basis by Canada and the United Kingdom?

Mr. RALSTON: Roughly it is in proportion to the value of the material inspected on behalf of each of the two countries.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I should like to ask a question with regard to the use of horses or cavalry in the army. I realize that the universal carrier is probably the best cross-country vehicle that we have in the armed forces, but I have seen articles in the press that the army council in Canada has considered the use of horses in this war. Some pictures have been shown to the members of the house at the instance of the government which indicate the recent extensive use of cavalry by the Russians to be feasible and effective. We have places in Canada, some on the Pacific coast and in Alberta, where it would be difficult for mechanized equipment to operate, and in view of what has been accomplished by the Russians with cavalry and horses in this war I should like to know what has been the decision of the army council regarding the use of horses in this war. Is there any possible use for them in the future, or has the day of the horse entirely passed? If there is use for them, it must be remembered that it takes time to collect and train horses. Many people are interested in this question.

Mr. GRAYDON: There is no rationing of oats and hay.

Mr. RALSTON: I was jokingly going to suggest that we are dealing with the inspection board of the United Kingdom and Canada, and that what my hon. friend has referred to is a horse of another colour. But since he has referred to it I would say that we have a small horse-driven unit at Petawawa and a limited organization in connection with that unit. The matter has been carefully considered from the point of view primarily, as my hon. friend will understand, of the saving in gasoline. I have not the figures here but it was found from that point of view the use of horse-drawn vehicles to any large extent except in camps where short turns could be made was not justified. I do not think I can say more. My hon. friend did not say it but I know it is in the back of his head that he has, as I have, the greatest respect for our old friend the mule. I do not think that in the last war there was any better transportation or traction facility than that particular animal.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Would the minister give us the number of men employed by the board, where they are stationed and a summary of their activities? Is this \$10,600,000 Canada's share, and if so what is the United Kingdom's share?

Mr. RALSTON: This estimate of \$10,600,000 is Canada's share.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Is it on a fifty-fifty basis?

Mr. RALSTON: No, it is in the rough proportions of the value of the material inspected for Canadian account and United Kingdom account. The number of employees on the board as of May 1 was 18,946. In Canada the total number of male employees is 5,839, and female, 12,547. That includes the administrative officers. In the United States there are 560 employees. The rest are in Canada. The service which the employees of the board give is to inspect all war materials of Canadian manufacture and some in the United States which are made for Canadian or British account except aircraft, ships and ship repairs, naval ammunitions, ordnance, naval equipment, naval electrical equipment, foodstuffs, medical and dental stores, fuel, and a few other odd items. I do not think I should occupy the time of the committee by going into detail. I assume hon. members have seen all over this country in the various plants the inspection staff of the joint board operating. They have served, it seems to me, as ably and as efficiently as any body in connection with the war effort. They are