

*Demobilization—Air Services*

ized for the past two months it will be realized that a big shake-up is going on in the various stations. It is not easy to employ men at each station in their own trade and keep them busy while this process is going on. There will undoubtedly be a hiatus between the end of the war period and the time when we get on a permanent peace-time basis of training again. Everything is being done to keep the process of demobilization as smooth as possible and I think we have been more or less successful.

There was one thing I forgot to mention to-day and I would refer to it now, because one hon. member some days ago when discussing the question of the war loan suggested that "the amount of money that soldiers, sailors and airmen invested was so small." I do not think he intended to cast any reflections upon the men, but to suggest that they were not able to invest very much. It will be of interest to the committee to know that the air force in the war loan reached 375 per cent of its quota, and the members of the air force in this loan contributed \$24,340,050. When you consider that the members of the air force have contributed to eight victory loans—they were not called upon to contribute to the first one—well over \$100 million, I do not think anyone will feel that that is negligible.

Mr. MacNICOL: I wish to ask a question or two with regard to marine and aircraft engines, and that will constitute what I have to say to-night on these items. A few years ago, in the days when the Hon. Wesley Gordon was in charge of this line of equipment, I brought a delegation from Toronto technical school on Harbord street and the government gave to the school some old-fashioned aeroplane and marine engines. After the receipt of those engines they were able to largely increase their work in the school they had on Bathurst street, from which I may say there resulted the magnificent job which the technical school in Toronto did during the war in connection with aeroplane and marine work. All I wish to ask is this. A good deal of this equipment will be left over, both marine and air engines, and out of respect for that magnificent job done by that great technical school throughout the whole of the war, and prior to the war, in training a multitude of young men who played a prominent part in the war, will it be possible for the Toronto board of education for that school to obtain some of these marine and aeroplane engines and parts and

[Mr. C. W. G. Gibson.]

perhaps a couple of completed aeroplanes as well, for use in the schools for which they now have room for the education of the youth of the country? We never know when their services may be required again.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I have answered that question twice to-night. The air force has nothing to do with the disposal of these supplies, but I understand that war assets allocation committee is arranging to make this material available to schools, and applications to that committee will be dealt with.

Mr. JACKMAN: I asked the minister a few moments ago exactly what type of board or what means the air force employed to make sure that all assets which were declared surplus were in fact surplus, and the minister referred to officers of the air force. I wish to know whether an effective job is being done in scouring the various assets which the air force has and which they are not likely to use in another war, if we had one. I want to know in detail. I am interested in this not primarily from the point of view of the minister's own accounts which are before us but from the point of view of War Assets Corporation, which is subject to a committee of the house. Will he let me know precisely the set-up of the committee? Is it just a few officers who for the moment have nothing to do pending discharge? Has he his top officers, chiefs of staff or chiefs of technical staff? Generally I should like to have a picture of exactly what means are being taken in the air force to make sure that surplus assets are so declared.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): In the set-up of the air force we have various commands across the country. We have the Eastern and the Western Air Command; Nos. 1 and 2 Air Commands and the Northwest Air Command. In addition we have a maintenance command which looks after supplies within the service. While within each command they have a record of the supplies on hand, the maintenance command is responsible for all the equipment and for declaring surplus any that is no longer required or that is surplus to requirements. That is a command within the service, a part of the service, and its function is to look after supply and maintenance of equipment.

Mr. ADAMSON: Does air-sea rescue come under this item? If so, what is the department doing with regard to air-sea rescue?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): Air-sea rescue equipment comes under item 11.

Mr. ADAMSON: What does marine craft cover?