

*War Appropriation*

States citizens who are serving in the Canadian forces an opportunity to transfer to United States forces. Can the minister tell us anything about that?

Mr. RALSTON: That is part of the agreement which has been or is being concluded between the United States and ourselves. The parties who are coming here are coming for the purpose of meeting, at various points across Canada, United States citizens in our own services who have elected to go to the United States, and arranging for their medical examination and details with regard to transportation and so forth.

Mr. GREEN: How many men in the Canadian forces will be affected?

Mr. RALSTON: No one has any figures on that so far as I know. I think I stated some time ago—it was just a general statement and was not made in connection with these negotiations—that there were from six to seven thousand United States citizens in the Canadian army. I also stated that including staff pilots there were—I am speaking from memory—at that time some 2,300 in the Canadian air force. That was some time ago, and I have no doubt that there are quite a number more who have joined the air force since.

Mr. BROOKS: Are not friendly aliens in Canada subject now to call by their own governments or by their governments in exile in other countries?

Mr. RALSTON: Oh, yes, they are subject to call under their own laws, but the Canadian government under international law does not necessarily assist in the enforcement of those laws.

Mr. BROOKS: But they are notified by their own government?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes.

Mr. GRAYDON: At an earlier stage of this debate I raised the question of easier transportation facilities for the men on active service and suggested that the minister might consider calling together a small committee of men in the ranks of the armed forces for the purpose of advising in connection with some of the matters to which I then referred. It is along that line I want to say a word further to-night. I am advised that in the newly organized United States army they have a system which I bring to the attention of the minister with some reluctance because it is not likely that he will pay any more attention to his civilian critics than we are justly entitled to but I hope this example

[Mr. Green.]

may not be overlooked in the new disciplinary arrangements which the Canadian army has in mind. In an effort towards what is regarded as the democratization of the United States army, 3,000 questionnaires, each containing 118 questions, have been sent to a selected number of men in the ranks. In other words, these men have been asked to give essential opinions regarding several important aspects of the army's work. One of these questions asks how the services of the man in the armed forces may be made more efficient; another invites suggestions as to improvement of the army in efficiency, discipline and other respects. This approach to the troops may be said to follow out in a more comprehensive way the suggestion which I originally made of a select committee consisting of men in the ranks. Perhaps the reference of army matters to the "man underneath" is not so unorthodox a procedure as upon its face it may seem to be. In the formulation of future policies the minister might give some consideration to this suggestion which comes from the United States army itself. May I ask whether the department has any plans in mind which would lead to that objective?

Mr. RALSTON: As a matter of fact, we have an organization which was set up comparatively recently; we call it a special services directorate. It deals with just such matters as my hon. friend has mentioned—shall I say, matters of morale; that is part of it, on matters both inside and outside the army, suggestions either from civilians or from soldiers to improve the service of the individual, to employ his capacities more usefully, and also for the improvement of the army generally.

Mr. GRAYDON: Has the machinery actually been set in operation?

Mr. RALSTON: No.

Mr. BROOKS: There has been a questionnaire.

Mr. RALSTON: When my hon. friend says "machinery", no questionnaires have been sent out along the lines he has suggested, but other steps have been taken to secure opinions and views with regard to such matters.

Mr. HAZEN: I wish to submit to the minister one or two questions which will not take long to ask but may take longer to answer. Are the fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth divisions up to strength? Is each of these divisions fully officered? Is each of them fully equipped? If any of them are not fully up to strength, fully officered or