

Supply—National Defence

Mr. Pearkes: All that information is given on page 35 of the white paper.

Item agreed to.

220. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and major equipment, \$90,940,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: On this vote I should like to ask the minister what construction, if any, the army is carrying on in the province of Newfoundland, or proposes to carry on in the present fiscal year.

Mr. Pearkes: I am advised that there is no major armoury construction planned this year for Newfoundland.

Mr. Pickersgill: Is there any minor construction planned this year?

Mr. Pearkes: There is some minor repair and maintenance work in order to keep the existing buildings in a state of repair.

Mr. Pickersgill: I take it the minister does not yet have in his possession the list of buildings for which I asked on the previous item.

Mr. Pearkes: It has not yet come over.

Mr. Herridge: As the minister knows, there is a modern and very satisfactory armoury at Trail and an old one at Nelson which, with certain additions could, in my opinion and that of others, be made very suitable for further use. I do, however, wish to bring to the attention of the minister something which has become a standing joke in the city of Nelson. I think that in the last ten years some 15 engineer officers or architects of the department have visited Nelson, in each case spending two or three days in the hotel, supposed to be investigating the possibility of extending the armoury, or renovating it or improving it. But I think that in all that time about \$5,000 has been spent on putting in a new roof. I am bringing this to the attention of the minister because I hope he will look into this matter which has become the subject of caustic comment by local people with regard to the efficiency of the Department of National Defence. These officers and architects spend two or three days in a hotel there periodically; but nothing ever seems to happen as a result of their visits.

Several prominent citizens in the city with whom I have spoken have brought up this question, and I promised to direct it to the attention of the minister because we think this state of affairs should be stopped. I am given to understand that at very little expenditure an addition to the south side of the present armoury could be made, with the result that the building would be suitable and usable for a number of years to come. I might add that this unit has carried on in

the face of great difficulties in previous years and—I am speaking carefully—in the face of even less recognition than is usual. This is presenting a problem to the local officer commanding and to the other officers and men and I should like the minister to look into this question to see what can be done to improve and extend the building there. I imagine that a modest expenditure would be enough to provide satisfactory quarters for the men who have been carrying on throughout the years.

Mr. Pearkes: I shall be very pleased to look into that matter.

Now with regard to the acquisition of a rifle range in Newfoundland there is a figure here of \$1,500.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder if the minister could tell the committee what the total expenditure in the Atlantic provinces will be or what it is expected to be this year and what the comparable figure was for last year.

Mr. Pearkes: I have not that information readily available. I will get it, and let the hon. member know.

Mr. Hellyer: The increase in this vote, from \$45,745,000 last year to \$90,940,000 this year is a very sizeable one, almost 100 per cent, so I think the minister might be good enough to give us a list of all the major projects and what their purpose is in each case.

Mr. Pearkes: In Calgary, the expenditure is \$3,271,000; in Edmonton, \$1,895,000 and at Wainwright, \$422,000. Those are the expenditures in Alberta. In British Columbia, at Chilliwack, there is an expenditure of \$1,886,000; in Vancouver, \$90,000; in Victoria, \$290,000. In Manitoba there is an expenditure at Shilo, which is a military training command, of \$1,611,000; and at Winnipeg, \$110,000. At camp Gagetown the expenditure amounted to \$2,970,000. Expenditure in Nova Scotia is \$361,000; in Barriefield, Ontario, \$2,630,000; at camp Borden, \$4,320,000; at Cobourg, the ordnance depot, \$965,000.

Other places in which there is considerable expenditure include Kingston with \$2,421,000 in connection with the Barriefield camp, a tri-service hospital and extensions to the Royal Military College; in Ottawa, \$2,200,000 mainly for the new tri-service hospital here, and Petawawa, \$8,350,000, which covers new quarters for dependants. In Montreal there is a small expenditure of \$160,000; at Val Cartier, \$3,353,000, and in Saskatoon, \$300,000.