

Each company or half company is under the immediate command of an officer of the R.C.N.V.R., appointed as company commanding officer. The company commanding officer is assisted by two or more commissioned officers of the force.

A petty officer instructor (a highly qualified ex-petty officer of the Royal Navy or of the Royal Canadian Navy) is employed at each company headquarters to give instruction to men of the company in gunnery, seamanship and other naval subjects.

Each officer and man of the R.C.N.V.R. performs annually a minimum of 30 drills of one hour's duration at company headquarters. In actual practice 40 to 50 drills have been performed annually by each member of the company. Officers and men also attend from 2 to 3 weeks' naval training annually at the naval bases at Halifax or Esquimalt.

Officers and men who can obtain the necessary leave of absence are permitted to perform a maximum of 4 months' voluntary service during the period of enrolment, and a large number have availed themselves of this opportunity of gaining extended naval experience under sea-going conditions. The period of enrolment in the R.C.N.V.R. is 3 years.

### 3.—Royal Canadian Air Force.

Under the provisions of the National Defence Act, 1922, the powers, duties and functions given the Air Board under the Air Board Act of 1919 are vested in the Minister of National Defence.

The executive duties previously carried out by the Air Board are now performed by the Royal Canadian Air Force. The Air Force includes a directorate in the Chief of Staff's Branch of the Department of National Defence, headquarters at Ottawa and units at the following stations:—Vancouver, B.C., with sub-base at Prince Rupert, B.C.; High River, Alta.; Winnipeg, Man., with operating bases at Victoria Beach, Norway House and Cormorant Lake; Camp Borden, Ont., the main training base of the Royal Canadian Air Force; Ottawa, Ont.; and Dartmouth, N.S. The main technical and stores depot is at Ottawa, Ont. The strength of the Royal Canadian Air Force, permanent service, was, on Mar. 31, 1925, 66 officers and 313 men. Its functions are:—

(a) Air Force training and operations.—The main training base of the Royal Canadian Air Force at Camp Borden, Ont., provides training in Air Force duties for officers and men of the Permanent and Non-Permanent R.C.A.F., and also summer training for provisional pilot officers. The training covers flying and ground subjects, co-operation with military services, and such other courses of instruction as may be necessary.

(b) The control of commercial flying.—This branch is charged with the inspection and licensing of aircraft for airworthiness, the examination of pilots, air engineers and air navigators for competency, the licensing of air harbours, and the supervision of commercial operations generally.

(c) The conduct of flying operations for civil branches of the Government service.—This work includes forest fire prevention patrols on a large scale in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, aerial photography for the many services, including the Topographical and Geodetic Surveys, the Water Powers Branch, and the Department of Public Works, fishery protection patrols on the Pacific coast, transportation in the remoter parts of the country for many branches, and special flights for the customs and immigration authorities, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, etc.

The sum included in the estimates for 1925-26 for the Royal Canadian Air Force was \$1,880,850.