

**Air Training Plan May Prove Decisive
Factor in Winning of War.**

In this truly tremendous project, Canada has assumed the major share. What this Air Training Plan will probably mean to the allied cause, you have already been told. When, on October 10th, I announced the proposal, I said that the government of the United Kingdom had indicated its opinion that, with the facilities which Canada possessed, this co-operative effort might prove to be of the most essential and decisive character. Shortly after the agreement was signed, the British government again advised us that in its opinion the Air Training Scheme would do more to assist in ultimate victory than any other form of military aid which Canada could give. At the same time, the British government told us that it would welcome no less heartily the presence of Canadian land forces in the theatre of war at the earliest possible moment. You know how soon this wish was gratified, and how quickly the British people were given an opportunity to welcome our troops. On the very day I was announcing to you the signing of the Air Training Agreement, the First Contingent of the First Division of the Canadian Active Service Force was landing in the United Kingdom.

Development of Plan Proceeding Rapidly.

We did not wait for the signing of the Agreement to get on with the job of carrying out the programme finally agreed upon. Before the Agreement was signed, the ground had been prepared, and much had already been accomplished. Everyday since, the work has been proceeding with vigour and speed. Some forty complete airports were available as a result of civil developments, and forty new airports are being developed from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The delivery of planes from manufacturers in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States is actively proceeding. Deliveries of advanced training aircraft being supplied by the British Air Ministry have begun and are continuing. Orders have been placed for hundreds of other planes of Canadian and American manufacture.

Between the outbreak of war and the end of the year, contracts for the Royal Canadian Air Force, to the value of over seven and a half million dollars had been let for works and buildings most of which will be used for air training. The recruitment of personnel to man the schools is well advanced, and the training of instructors is actively in progress. By spring the training establishments will be ready to receive pupils.

**An Army Division Already Overseas—
Another Shortly to Cross.**

I have already referred to the landing in the United Kingdom, on December 17th, of the First Contingent of the First Division of the Canadian Active Service Force. This contingent was accompanied by its Commanding Officer, Major General A. G. L. McNaughton, who had been appointed to that command on October 6th. The Second Contingent landed on the last two days of the old year. With the recent landing of the Third Contingent, Canada now has a complete division and additional auxiliary units, engaged in advanced training in England. All three contingents made the crossing safely and exactly according to a schedule worked out months in advance. All left Canada fully clothed and fully equipped.

Meanwhile the training of the Second Division is proceeding rapidly, and the decision has been reached to despatch it overseas at an appropriate time.