

That was what was said by Vice-Admiral P. W. Nelles, chief of the naval staff and Rear-Admiral G. C. Jones, in command at Halifax. Then here is a report in the *New York Times* of April 6 of this year, not so long ago:

Some ports lag in preparations against raid peril.

Few coastal centres ready, but most are found ahead in some precautions.

Many cities lack sirens.

Joint fire-fighting tools are not widespread and not many shelters are built.

That was on the first page of the *New York Times*. Then Mr. Godbout, the distinguished premier of Quebec, stated on February 20 that Quebec was in imminent peril of possible attacks. Then the Hon. Doctor Manion, former leader of the Conservative party, said on April 13 that A.R.P. is the duty of all. Here are the headlines:

National director declares every individual and municipality must act.

Coast work praised.

B.C. and maritimes "in splendid shape" he asserts after dominion-wide inspection trips.

That was on Monday, but the paper of Saturday contained a picture of the first siren that had been installed in Quebec city. A.R.P. work there apparently was not so good. I think the people do their best, but they have no protection whatever from the Department of National Defence. Here is what happened in Australia. The *Citizen* of March 27, 1942, contained this headline:

Australian troops return for defence of continent.

All imperial forces government intended to recall for home defence now safely back at stations.

The Anzacs were in every part of the world, and when the motherland was attacked they had to send an S.O.S. to the United States. Home defence for India was urged. Who would have believed a year ago that the Japs would have reached India now? The Burma road was considered safe, but now it is in the hands of the Japs. It is not enough to say that we never thought it would happen, and then make a glorious retreat. I will tell something else to the Minister of National Defence. He should not put in the heads of soldiers, whether they are going to enlist or whether they are already in the army, the idea of sacrifice. Sacrifice is for the civilian, but our soldiers should have in their heads, their hearts and their minds the idea, not of sacrifice but of victory. This should be the inspiration of all our soldiers, and it is the duty of the Minister of National Defence to guide them in that direction.

More and more men are being called to the colours all the time, but we see very few of them. Of the hundreds of thousands of

trained men that Canada has, there are only, according to the statement made by the minister the other day, 15,000 trainees at present in Canada to defend our shores.

Mr. RALSTON: Nothing I said would give the slightest ground for a statement like that.

Mr. POULIOT: Then what were the 15,000 for?

Mr. RALSTON: I said it was home defence members of the Canadian army. As a matter of fact, only 10,000 of them were in the units. About 5,000 were in the training centres and the depots. That has nothing to do with the other matter at all.

Mr. POULIOT: Does the minister not consider the trainees as fully trained soldiers— young trainees like those sent to Hong Kong, without sufficient training, according to his own admission?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not interrupted before, but I think it is about time for me to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to give your ruling as to whether or not the Hong Kong inquiry is to be the subject of debate in this house before the report is presented.

The CHAIRMAN: I have already called the attention of the hon. gentleman and of members of the committee to the fact that the Hong Kong incident cannot be discussed either in committee or in the house before the report of the commission has been received.

Mr. POULIOT: On January 8, the *Ottawa Journal* said, "Increase quota of men called," and on April 1, the *Montreal Gazette* said, "Call-up of B men for home army is under consideration by Ottawa."

Then, on April 2, the *Montreal Gazette* had an article headed "Ralston 'not wholly satisfied' with Pacific coast defences." This again has appeared in the press and, since it has not been denied, I presume it is a correct report of what the Minister of National Defence said at Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Mr. RALSTON: I said it last night in the house.

Mr. POULIOT: But I was not here, and so I am quoting from the press. I enjoy very much listening to the hon. minister, and when I hear him make a statement I never forget it.

This is worth underlining. On April 1 the Minister of National Defence was "not wholly satisfied" with Pacific coast defences, but the very next day, on April 2, his colleague, the Minister of National Defence for Air, who accompanied him, tried to correct the bad impression that had been left by the interview given by the Minister of National