

engine being manufactured on this continent. One of our air squadrons is presently training in England and another two squadrons will move there shortly.

In the event of war, we may expect air attacks from Russia. To meet that possibility, our armed services are working in close co-operation with yours. A screen of radar stations is being built, connected by a network of communications and backed by squadrons of fighters, strategically placed. The Canadian and American chains will be linked together to form a single system. One quarter of the system will be in Canada, and will be built by Canada. To supplement this air defence, we are modernizing our heavy anti-aircraft guns to protect our vital points against bombing. We must also be prepared for the possibility of airborne troops being landed in North America. As I have stated, we have specially trained airborne troops to meet such an attack.

Our navy is being brought up to a strength of about one hundred ships, including one aircraft carrier, two cruisers, and a considerable number of destroyers and smaller escort vessels. We are building a fleet of well armed high speed escort vessels to cope with the latest edition of the Russian submarine. Our navy is expanding its air support to protect the approaches to our principal harbours.

We are bringing into production the great variety of modern weapons needed for the armed services and for their support. Procurement of the weapons and equipment is a civilian job in Canada, and was carried out under my Ministry in the last war. The same job is being entrusted to my care in the present emergency. This combination of the service requisition with civilian procurement has won favour in our country. It is the duty of the services to say what they want in the way of equipment, and when and where they want it, after which the civilian organization takes over the task of production and supply. From 1939 to 1945, Canada produced weapons and war equipment to a value of about thirteen billion dollars, of which only about 30 per cent was used by our own armed services and the balance shipped to our allies. We are vastly stronger industrially now than then, and I can promise you that the job of equipment and supply is not beyond our experience or capacity.

Our emphasis upon air defence has made it necessary for us to build extensive facilities for the training of air crew. During the last war, we trained not only airmen for Canada, but great numbers of airmen for Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and other allied countries. We have again offered our facilities to other NATO countries and the offer has been well received. Air crew are now training in Canada for Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

In past wars, Canada has fought with British type equipment. The nature of the present emergency is such that it has seemed desirable for Canada to change over to U.S. type equipment as rapidly as possible.

This decision has enabled us to furnish British type equipment for one full division to the Netherlands and we