

The government intends to follow that policy and has been gratified by the response and by the support which has been given by the officers and other ranks of these militia units.

As has already been stated by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the government is taking full authority to mobilize the man power of Canada for the defence of Canada. Every able-bodied man in Canada will be given an opportunity of training in the use of arms, so as to come to the defence of the homeland if necessary. The procedure will be that men will in due course be called up for a period of training so as to be prepared for the active defence of this dominion. The training, after due consideration for the requirements of the naval and air forces, will be entrusted to units of the non-permanent active militia which will be recruited voluntarily or filled under the powers of the new legislation according as the facilities for training and accommodation permit.

The length of the period of training will be determined by regulation. Whether this will be for a continuous period of three months or for a lesser time depends: (a) on the advice of the technical officers of the department; (b) on the requirements of industrial and productive man power as shown by a survey to be immediately undertaken.

The government has received many suggestions with regard to further training of civilians. It feels that enlistment in and co-operation with the non-permanent active militia units across this country will make for simplicity and effective administration and avoid the duplication and confusion of various units under various independent bodies with varying degrees of efficiency due to lack of uniformity in regulations and discipline.

It should be said that anyone who is physically fit and is below the age of forty-five years may and in fact will have not only the opportunity but the obligation to join the militia service of Canada.

The government welcomes suggestions and is at all times ready to consider them, but it believes that citizens will recognize that the responsibility for military direction rests with the federal authorities and their service advisers.

Speaking for the Department of National Defence we feel that all our energies should be first devoted to:

1. The task of recruiting men for service in the Canadian active service force;
2. The immediate training of certain non-permanent active militia units and home guard reserve;
3. The training of men who will be called up under the legislation to which the Prime Minister has referred.

The Department of National Defence is concerned with military matters. Its responsibility is military. The police authorities of this country are concerned with police matters. Their responsibility is restricted to police matters. There is no martial law in Canada, and no need for