

broken and benumbed, and in no spirit to rise immediately to the common defence. These things went on for a long time and one of the consequences is that our war effort has not been anything to be proud of. It is only lately, under pressure and impact of terrific events, that the people of Canada have risen to a sight of the reality. Now they are very much dissatisfied, now they are restive, now they are determined. Had the authorities of Canada long ago helped them to develop a spirit of that kind, we should have made a far greater war effort, and there would never have been the lethargy now complained of, nor some of the conduct which has been indulged in in the course of our recent history.

What is the sum of our war effort? Anyone speaking on this subject is apparently expected to utter the words of the Prime Minister; otherwise he may be charged with violating the Military Secrets Act, or something else, or with giving encouragement to the enemy. There is no man in this Dominion who wants to encourage the enemy less than I do. I speak with a depth of conviction born of many things which I am not particularly eager to expose to this House. It is my judgment, none the less, that we have now to realize just where we are, or we shall not get farther very soon.

After nearly nine months we have, I suppose, about 20,000 men in England. They have been there, or most of them, for about four to five months. We have a Second Division mobilized in Canada, but, as I am informed, not yet completely mobilized, not all the units being complete. We now have promise of a Third Division to be mobilized, and are told that at some time in the future a Canadian corps will be in France. It sounds well, but from the point of view of real immediate progress towards actual fighting I fear it is not much better than a façade of words and visions.

Our First Division had in it twelve infantry units, of whom nine were rifle units and three machine-gun units. It also had a complement of cavalry and artillery, and in personnel, so far as I know, was complete. That division went over with rifles, with machine guns, with artillery equipment. But when one has said that one has not told the whole truth. The rifles, I am ready to agree—I am no expert—are such that they can be used in the field. I hope that concession is not too great. The machine-guns could not be used. The artillery weapons were not modern, and only under bitter necessity could they be taken to the field at all, and they are used to-day only under the stern necessity of scarcity.

But had those rifles, those machine-guns, those artillery weapons been modern in every

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

way, that division as it went over would have been very far from being equipped. We have to keep in mind that to-day, relatively speaking, rifles have not great importance. They still are important. Besides, every unit of the whole nine—I take the rifle units first—must have 22 anti-tank guns, 14 infantry mortars and 24 signal pistols, a total of 60, or 540 in all; and of these they had none at all. The rifles presumably they still have. The machine-guns and the artillery weapons are being replaced on the other side by Great Britain. Whether they are all replaced I cannot say; I do hope they are.

In addition to all these regiments, wheeled vehicles are vital. Every infantry division has to have 66 wheeled vehicles—lorries, trucks, Bren gun carriers—or a total of 594; and they had none at all. To go further, the artillery and cavalry and three machine-gun units, called infantry, must as well have those vital accessories and in large numbers. These thousands of vehicles apparently have to be supplied by the over-strained factories of Britain. These things we should have had done in Canada.

We have learned of late—I do not know how soon others learned—that in addition to all this mechanized infantry and cavalry there must be the fighting vehicles for the whole division, consisting of 86 anti-tank guns, 49 scout carrier cars and 38 other armoured cars. Those are big fighting vehicles the division had to have, and they had none of them.

I wonder now whether someone would undertake to question those figures—someone who listened before the election to assurances that the division went over equipped. It is only fair to say that in my opinion, in the state we were in when the war broke out, no Government could have supplied those vehicles at once, or all of them; but I do object to the dissemination over the radio and otherwise in this Dominion of assurances that the division went over equipped. I object to it with all the earnestness of which I am capable.

Now, the young men of this country have special adaptabilities. They showed it in the last war. In the air they were very, very distinguished and successful. They would be the same in this war. One air squadron has gone over, which would include, I should think, about 40 pilots and a number of ground men. As yet, to the fighting front in the field we, as Canada, have contributed nothing. We have air men there who went over and enlisted in the British Air Force, and it is those men we hear of in the casualty lists to-day.

Besides, this country is specially qualified to provide railway troops, forestry men, tun-