

C242143.

COPY

Ottawa, Canada,
June 4th, 1941.

MEMORANDUM TO

Hon. James G. Gardiner,
Minister of National War Services.

Re: Canadian Firemen for Britain

I understand that this matter will be the subject of a discussion in Council tomorrow and you have asked me to send you a statement of the facts.

(1) While you were in Great Britain you considered the suggestion that Canadian firemen should be enlisted and sent to Britain to aid the fire fighting forces there. You discussed the problem with the appropriate officers of the British Government.

(2) It was then felt by the British authorities that they had sufficient help to handle the situation themselves.

(3) Since that time the British Government have definitely asked that the services of at least 1000 firemen be secured in Canada and that these men be sent overseas to aid the fire fighting forces of Great Britain.

(4) The fire forces in Great Britain are municipal and are organized, controlled and paid by the different municipal authorities.

(5) I believe that the British Government has created some sort of an auxiliary fire fighting force, organized on a national basis and paid and controlled by the British Government. This auxiliary force renders help to the municipal organizations.

(6) I further believe that the British Government is contemplating the nationalization of all fire fighting forces in Britain.

(7) The Government here advised that it would be