

by Mr. Grant Dexter, reviewing the position of Canada a year after the declaration of war. No one will accuse Mr. Grant Dexter of being unfriendly to this government. His article is laudatory rather than critical, as was to be expected; yet he too recognizes what we all know now. Canada made no real strides for the first eight months of the war. It was not until things began to happen overseas that Canada awoke from her complacency. Still she proceeded leisurely, and it was not until the fall of France and the epic of Dunkirk that this country and this government really awoke to the seriousness of the situation. There were people and newspapers which knew and which vainly attempted to arouse the Canadian people and this government, but it took a major disaster to the allied cause really to arouse all of them.

To-day the people of Canada want to know results. Since last June they have been fed a staggering array of figures of contracts let for equipment, munitions, supplies and a hundred other things. What are the results to date, fourteen months after the declaration of war? That is what the people want to know. That is why there was such a demand to have parliament resume its sittings.

I have a list of specific questions I want to ask the government.

1. Why have no rifles been made in Canada to date for use by our battalions? Why are our thirty-day trainees given only old Ross rifles, many of which may not be fired? Only those which have been reconditioned may be fired.

2. Why is there such a shortage of machine guns for use by machine gun units?

3. Why is signal equipment practically non-existent? Mr. Baldwin stressed this in his review of our conditions on October 1.

4. What is the position with respect to Bren guns? Why is there so much secrecy about their production? From time to time we are told that production of this and production of that is up to schedule or ahead of schedule, but we hardly know what the schedule is. What is the schedule in connection with Bren guns? We are told that it calls for a thousand guns by the end of next March, a large portion of which are to go to England.

5. Are there any 25-pounders for our artillery? According to Mr. Baldwin the answer is "only one." Our artillery units are armed only with obsolete 18-pounders left over from the last war. Two artillery units in training in my province, one at St. Stephen and one at Fredericton, have never even had a wooden gun with which to train. I talked to the officers personally, and they are just sick about it.

6. What is the stage of production of tanks in Canada? How far, if at all, have we progressed?

7. How far have we progressed in the manufacture of aeroplanes? I have been told that no engines are being made, that it is only hoped to make them at some indefinite time in the future.

8. What is the production of aeroplane propellers and hubs?

9. How does our effort compare with that of our sister dominion, Australia? From a recent account I read it would appear that in every field of war endeavour, Australia, with only about two-thirds as many people and probably less than two-thirds the wealth of this country, is far ahead of Canada.

I do not suggest now that there is not now the will to do. At one time that charge might have been justified, but the force of public opinion, coupled with the tragic trend of events last spring and summer, have shaken that complacency. It is no longer to be a comfortable, moderate war contribution, such as was promised in some quarters, in which Canada was to assume her own coastal defence and provide economic and material aid in foodstuffs and supplies.

These are some of the questions surging through the minds of the Canadian people after fourteen months of war. I suggest to the ministry that, in making reply, they eliminate the superlative and get down to realities and let the people know the facts. The people have been fed long enough with propaganda, dished up to them by high-powered press liaison officers. And when one man does not suit a certain cabinet minister he is fired, and somebody else is put in his place—probably for cause, I don't know. Specifically, will the government set up a committee or committees of the house before which these matters may be examined concretely, so that the naked truth may emerge?

Briefly—and I apologize to the house for taking so much time—may I refer to the international position. Certainly I do not want to do anything which would embarrass the government with respect to the situation on the Pacific coast. I do suggest, however, that the ministry should tell us something about our relations with Japan. From the information I get from British Columbia it would seem that there is a great deal of arrogance on the part of Japanese nationals who live in that province. I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) will make some reference to this situation.

Then, what about Vichy? From the beginning I have refrained from saying anything with regard to Vichy. I believe Canada