

So long as the theatre of war was confined to the European continent, we maintained a war effort based upon a voluntary contribution as generous as we could make it. Our first efforts consisted above all in the manufacture of munitions and the building of ships for their transport: This policy has placed Canada in the fourth rank of producers of munitions and in third place as a producer of ships.

Another measure adopted by the government at the outset of hostilities and which has had a decisive influence on the course of the war has been the development of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The spectacular results of this plan have prompted President Roosevelt to describe Canada as the Air Drome of Democracy, and the Right Honourable Anthony Eden, during his recent visit to Ottawa said the following words of appreciation: "In my capacity as Secretary of State, for the Dominion, I had the opportunity of taking part in the initial development of this plan. No one suspected at the time that it would have such an enormous influence upon the course of the war. If Canada had contributed nothing but this to the struggle, the predominant part which the Commonwealth Air Training Plan has had in the common struggle would be sufficient to secure for Canada a high place in the allied role of honour."

After the tragic fall of France, in June, 1940, when England, practically disarmed at Dunkirk, alone held the British Isles against the formidable power of the Axis, it was imperative to take extraordinary measures to secure our security and to hold at a distance the horror of hostilities.

This is why we did not hesitate to introduce general mobilization in order to prepare for all eventualities and in order to step up our production of arms for which the allies had such a pressing need.

In spite of her immense resources and the energy of her population, Canada was very much alive to the growing menace. It was then that Mr. King undertook to develop the most friendly relations with our good neighbour to the South. He relied upon his long years of friendly policy and his personal friendship with President Roosevelt. On the 17th of August, 1940, Mr. King concluded with the American President, the Ogdensburg Agreement, by which Canada and the United States undertook to defend each other in case of attack. A similar understanding was concluded at Hyde Park on April 20, 1941, with respect more particularly to war production.