

make no exception—in connection with which this government has not been charged from the very start that we were not going fast enough, that we were not getting the results that should be obtained. The very first year it was, Why didn't we have more troops overseas; why didn't we have more clothing; why didn't we have more equipment? My colleague the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) was continually taunted with not getting planes fast enough, not getting tanks, that we had no tanks, and the like. So it has been all the way. Little if any account has been taken of the fact that unless there had been very careful planning at the outset, all the rest might likely have been a muddle. I claim for the present administration that we have planned carefully from the start. We have resisted the pressure to proceed at a rate which would sacrifice quality for quantity. As a result, what we have done stands in good stead for this country and for the united nations to-day.

This afternoon the leader of the opposition ended his address with a peroration—it was not his own, it was one of Mr. Churchill's; it was all the better for that. It was one with which we are all familiar, telling how the British people were prepared to fight in the streets, to fight on the beaches, to fight on the hillsides, prepared to fight everywhere, and my hon. friend said, Now I present that as a challenge to hon. gentlemen opposite in regard to their war effort. Well, I am going to answer that challenge to-night. I answer it by asking him to survey what is taking place to-day in different parts of the world as a result of the services of the armed forces of this country. I ask him to stop and think of the position of this country on the day this parliament met and decided that we would enter the war. At that time Canada was not prepared for war any more than were any of the other countries now fighting the axis. We started practically from scratch, but to-day we have one of the finest navies in the world. We have two army corps overseas, the best trained and best equipped of any corresponding number of men in the world. We have an air training plan in this country which has turned out pilots and air crews that will be found over every theatre of war in the world, an agency of war as great as any other to be found in any country to-day. And we have in proportion to our population greater war production than can be shown relatively I believe for almost any other country. Not only have we armed forces engaged in active combat to-day in all parts of the world, but we have in addition been assisting in arming and supplying the other united nations that have been taking a great part in the war.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

In answer to my hon. friend's challenge, let him ask himself what Canada has done for Russia, for China, for many of the united nations that are to-day fighting in this war. In the answer to that question he will find the answer to the question whether we have been doing our part in the war.

My hon. friend has asked for facts and figures. I shall make a brief statement. I had thought that I would leave this to another occasion, but as he has asked me to give something concrete I shall at once give a brief statement of the growth of the armed forces in the past year, 1942.

Here may I pause to join with my hon. friend in the tribute he paid to our heroic men at Dieppe. Nothing has happened in the past year which has touched so deeply the hearts of the Canadian people as the spirit shown by the forces who were engaged in that combined reconnaissance at Dieppe in the middle of the year. Their resource and ingenuity, their skill, their bravery, the valour and heroism they showed; all this and much else has helped to make the name of Dieppe stand out in the history of our country as one of the memorable names blazoned on the banner of war honours of our land. And may I say that I do not think full justice has ever been done in this house to the memory of the men who fought at Hong Kong and sacrificed their lives or their health there in an equally brave endeavour to preserve the safety of their country and the freedom of the world. In our thoughts at this time above all are those who have made the supreme sacrifice, the families that have lost their loved ones, those who to-day are suffering as prisoners of war in different enemy countries, those who have been wounded, those who are away from their homes; all of them are present in our thoughts at this time, and I hope word will go out to the living among their number that the House of Commons, whatever differences it may have in its parties, is one in its thought for them and its determination to see that everything that is in its power to do will be done to help and support them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to come to facts and figures. A year ago the navy comprised over three hundred and fifty ships and over twenty-seven thousand men. At the beginning of the present year there were more than five hundred ships and the personnel had almost doubled, the number exceeding fifty-two thousand.

At the beginning of 1942 the active army included some 260,000 volunteers and an additional 20,000 men called up under the Mobilization Act. At the beginning of this year the number of volunteers had risen to about 360,000 and the number of men serving compulsorily