

attack, partly on account of our proximity to the United States, which would furnish us with a supply of raw material, and partly on account of our proximity to the United Kingdom, which would also supply us with material, and which was close enough and accessible enough to make delivery of the output easy. Fourth, I suggest that Canada was chosen because of the reputation of Canadian youth for efficiency and gallantry during the last war as members of the Royal Air Force and of the air arm of the navy.

A large part of the energies of the officers, staff and men of the Royal Canadian Air Force is devoted to this job. We might have preferred, I imagine that most of the officers of the air force would have preferred, a more direct contribution, that is to say, that we send over more all-Canadian squadrons. We were, however, asked to do this job as a matter of empire co-operation. It was believed, and I think in the event it will be proved, that the belief was founded upon common sense and reason, that by pooling the efforts of the empire to produce these young men and put them in the firing line, we would do much better than if each part of the commonwealth endeavoured to carry on, on its own.

#### 4. NEW POWERS CONFERRED ON DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF PRIORITIES BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY, ANNOUNCEMENT OF MINISTER OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY, FEBRUARY 22, 1941.

Extensive powers have been conferred by Order in Council on the Director-General of the Priorities Branch of the Department of Munitions and Supply, according to an announcement by Hon. C. D. Howe. These powers, under which priorities will be regulated, were formulated and recommended by the Wartime Requirements Board.

The Order in Council sets forth and puts into effect a priorities plan. It is designed to assure that all war requirements of the Crown will be met in an orderly fashion, and that they shall have priority over all other requirements. It also provides that the priorities officer, who is the Director General of the Priorities Branch of the Department, will allocate and determine the transport and delivery of supplies in accordance with wartime needs.

To meet these needs, the order provides that the priorities officer of the Department of Munitions and Supply with the concurrence of naval, military, and air force officials, will set up a list approved by the Minister of Munitions and Supplies on which priorities are required. The priorities list may be subdivided, classified, or revised from time to time.