

The late Minister of National Defence has indicated in various announcements that further recruiting has been authorized on a large scale to provide for the raising of men for the third and fourth divisions and other units of the Canadian active service force, amounting in all to about 30,000 men.

Recruits are now being enlisted at the rate of approximately 800 per day. The whole situation with regard to recruiting these troops has been reviewed over the week-end and instructions issued to intensify activity. I am able to say on the authority of the department of supply that we can at the present moment provide clothing, personal equipment and rifles for 1,200 men per day. As a matter of fact yesterday 1,463 men were enlisted and looked after.

In addition to the 30,000 men the raising of whom was authorized by the late Mr. Rogers, a survey of the field in the light of the war situation, recently developed and still developing, clearly indicates the need of a call for further Canadian active service force recruiting to replace troops taken and to be taken for special duties in Canada and elsewhere, and for forestry and railway troops, as well as corps troops for reinforcements.

Whilst it is impossible to forecast what these requirements will be, authorization was given over the week-end to provide equipment for an additional 40,000 men in addition to the 30,000 men now coming in.

It will be remembered that the veterans' home guard has been formed as a corps of the non-permanent active militia, and numbers of that guard can be readily increased as circumstances may justify. The veterans' home guard reserve is also, it will be remembered, part of the non-permanent active militia, and in fact the non-permanent active militia units are made responsible for its discipline and training.

Meanwhile, authority has been given for all the infantry non-permanent active militia units which have not been mobilized to carry on their training in the local headquarters and to recruit to their respective establishments, subject only to the limitation of training facilities.

Similar steps are being taken with respect to certain non-permanent active militia units other than infantry.

Training accommodation and instructional staff will obviously be limited in some cases, but the districts are being instructed to assist in improvising training accommodation and augmenting instruction staff as far as that may be found possible.

From the beginning of the war our militia units have been recognized and dealt with as being the backbone of Canada's defence organization and, as is known, the units of the first, second and third and fourth divisions are all being mobilized, based on existing non-permanent active militia units.