

Canada is immune from attack. What we must guard against now is the opposite tendency. Happily, Canadian territory is geographically more secure than the territory of most of the belligerents. We all know, too, that the best defence of our territory is the defeat of the enemy before he arrives. But we must not neglect necessary defences. We must be prepared to meet sudden raids from sea or air in certain strategic areas. The most elementary rule of warfare is the maintenance of the security of the base of operations. This aspect of our effort necessarily includes Canada's share of our joint responsibility with the United States for the defence of North America.

The Canadian navy has a share in this primary responsibility for our territorial defence. Our navy has also a great and growing responsibility in the North Atlantic. Its part in the battle of the Atlantic is already important. We are all aware of the great strain which has been thrown on the British navy, and, more recently, on the United States navy, by the existence of warfare in every ocean. We know, too, that the possibility of finally crushing Hitler depends upon keeping open the sea lanes from North America to Britain and Europe. From the outset, the government has placed no limit on the expansion of Canada's navy. We have manned ships as fast as the navy has been able to acquire them. Not only is the greatest possible Canadian naval strength needed in the North Atlantic, but so are merchant ships to carry men and supplies to Britain. Canada is providing and will continue to provide and to man both, to the very limit of our capacity.

All this is very different from Canada's task at sea in the last war. Then, we relied, in the early stages of the war, not upon ourselves, but on the British navy for the protection of our coasts on the Atlantic, and the Japanese navy for our protection on the Pacific, and, in the later stages of the war, upon ships of the United States navy.

The army shares with the navy the responsibility for our territorial defence. It shares also with the navy in the defence of Newfoundland and other islands in the Atlantic. Its main task, however, has been its contribution to the defence of Britain. Every Canadian will remember with pride what Mr. Churchill has said on more than one occasion, of the sense of security which the presence of our troops has given to the government and people of Britain.

It is natural for Canadians, remembering the last war, to judge our war effort in terms of the size of our army. In the last war, Canada's war effort was essentially and almost entirely an army effort. This, however, is a

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

very different kind of war, and its successful prosecution demands very different methods. This war has been well described as a war of machines, of science and of psychology. I think those are Mr. Churchill's own words.

While prepared to send overseas as large an army as Canada can support, without failing in other directions, the government is even more anxious to see that every man, every unit, and the army as a whole, will have the greatest possible striking power. More important to-day than the size of an army is its striking power.

The Royal Canadian Air Force, like the navy and the army, has its part in our territorial defence and the defence of Newfoundland. Its responsibilities on the Pacific coast have been increased by the outbreak of war with Japan. But its main task is the administration of the British commonwealth air training plan. The battle of Britain in 1940 completely justified the emphasis which, from the opening days of the war, Britain and Canada alike placed upon the achievement of air superiority.

Every campaign in the present war has equally shown that, without adequate strength in the air, an offensive action and even prolonged resistance on land or at sea is foredoomed to failure.

The safety of Britain, and Britain's capacity to strike back at the enemy, depend alike upon the air strength concentrated in Britain. That strength is being developed largely on Canadian soil, both in the British commonwealth air training plan, and in the schools of the Royal Air Force. The air training plan is the greatest and the most vital of all Canada's military commitments in this war. No effort has been spared and no effort will be spared to assure its continuing success.

Canada's concentration on air training has inevitably reduced the number of Canadian squadrons in operations overseas. Unlike the army which serves overseas as a unit, a large and growing proportion of the trained personnel of the Canadian air force serves with the Royal Air Force. The claims of national pride have been subordinated to a total effort.

In nothing could the difference between the present war and the last, and the nature and extent of Canada's effort be more marked than in the country's contribution to aerial warfare.

A vital aspect of Canada's war effort is our contribution to the food supply of Great Britain. This contribution has grown steadily in importance. Britain cannot feed herself, and her own great and growing armed forces. Still less can she feed the ever-increasing