

Hon. Mr. WHITE: May I ask the honourable the Minister a question? Is it the intention to send any further divisions overseas as divisions, or will the troops now in Canada be used as reinforcements?

Hon. Mr. KING: I think it is the intention not to increase the number of divisions, but to reinforce the troops overseas.

At the request of the honourable leader opposite I have had a statement placed on the desks of members so that they might have complete information as to expenditures on the various operations of the Department of Defence. I think it is unnecessary for me to dilate on these expenditures. The Ministers have given a very complete analysis, which is on record in the House of Commons Hansard, and we have had an opportunity of hearing these Ministers before our Committee on Finance. I would only say this. It is to be expected that this year, especially now that the Canadian army has gone into action, expenditures will be greatly increased. As shown by the figures I have given you, the vote this year is nearly \$600,000,000 more than it was last year. That is only an estimate, however. The actual figures depend upon the activities of our army and the necessities of that army. One thing I think we can say, and say with some satisfaction: that our troops are well equipped.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. KING: They have probably the finest equipment of any army in the world; it is at least as good as any; and I am sure it is the desire of the Canadian people that our soldiers should be provided with everything that it is possible to provide for them.

With regard to the Air Service, honourable members will recall that there was an air conference held in Ottawa last spring, attended by representatives not only of Great Britain and the United States, but of other countries as well. At that time the air training scheme was in operation. Schools had been established throughout Canada, and many students from various countries came to take part in the air training programme, which, I think I may say, is a great credit to those who have had it under their charge. That scheme to some extent increased the estimates for the Air Service. In addition to that, however, the Canadian Government has now arranged to maintain thirty-eight purely Canadian squadrons overseas, and, furthermore, it has undertaken to look after the Canadian personnel in the Royal Air Force. It may be rather startling to honourable gentlemen to learn that, although we have a very sizable air force of our own,

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for every man in the Royal Canadian Air Force there are eleven Canadians in the Royal Air Force. We are beginning to realize just how much Canadian youth is doing not only for Canada, but for the defence of the Empire in this great war.

In the Naval Department as well we find a considerably increased expenditure. I think it is easily understood why this should be so. We started out as a very humble naval power, but we have grown rapidly. To-day the Canadian Navy is largely responsible for guarding the transport of goods across the Atlantic, and in order that it might be able to accomplish this, not only have we had to build in our own yards ships suitable for that class of work, but we have also had to buy, especially in Great Britain, a larger type of vessel that will give us greater striking power.

The Canadian Naval Service is something of which we may well be proud. From reports of speeches of that great leader, Mr. Churchill, and information we have been able to glean from the Press and what has been said by Ministers in Parliament, it would seem that the Canadian Naval Service has at least put a curb on what at one time was a very serious problem, namely, the submarine menace.

In this work there is a combined effort by the Naval Service and the Air Force. The Royal Canadian Air Force is to-day patrolling convoys out of Halifax, Sydney and Newfoundland. Using British, American and Canadian planes, they are operating half-way across the Atlantic, to where the work is taken over by British planes. The increased efficiency of our Air Force, coupled with the work of the Navy, has had much to do with overcoming the submarine.

Now, I do not wish to continue at greater length. I am pleased to have the honour of presenting this Bill and asking that it be given second reading.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, I am sure we are all greatly indebted to the honourable leader of this House for placing before us in such a comprehensive and detailed manner the budget for our three armed forces, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. We are also indebted to him for arranging to have so many Ministers appear before the Standing Committee on Finance, thus enabling us to secure much interesting and valuable information. We had before that committee the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Gardiner; the Minister of Labour, Hon. Mr. Mitchell; the Minister of Munitions and Supply, Hon. Mr. Howe;