

to assist in the strategic defence of the Bay of Bengal. It was a Canadian flier who sighted a Japanese carrier force on the way to Ceylon. As a result of his warning, the somewhat meagre defences of Ceylon were prepared to meet and turn away the attacking Japanese planes.

The R.C.A.F. sent a special mission to the India-Burma war theatre in July, 1944. A survey of tropical fighting conditions was made, and information was gathered for the use of the R.C.A.F. when more of its squadrons were transferred to the Pacific.

In Canada R.C.A.F. units have been stationed at west coast bases from the early days of the war. They have flown constant patrols over Pacific waters in search of enemy submarines or surface vessels and have been on guard over Canada's approaches to the Orient.

#### WAR PRODUCTION

"The reorganization of Canadian war production for the war against Japan is being carried out in close co-operation with the other United Nations, particularly the United Kingdom and the United States. Canada has continuing commitments in the field of production for the war against Japan."

In these words on June 1, 1945, Prime Minister King reminded the Canadian people that victory over Germany meant total concentration of Canadian war production on the quick defeat of Japan. While there will be a sharp decline in some types of industrial output, overall production will continue at a high level. Plans for industrial reconversion to peacetime production are being put in operation wherever a drop in war production is indicated so that the changeover will be effected with a minimum of disturbance and will go hand in hand with active prosecution of the Japanese war.

While certain controls are being relaxed, manpower regulations modified, and products for civilian consumption in many cases increased, this in no way indicates that Canadian production is not geared first and foremost to the needs of war. It is only after those needs, as estimated by United Kingdom, United States and Canadian authorities, are filled that Canada's plants will begin their conversion to peacetime products.

#### SHIPBUILDING

The present high rate of ship deliveries will continue well into 1946, while the already substantial ship repairs program may increase. Canada's shipyards have uncompleted orders for 63 transport ferries; 17 maintenance ships and three stores-issuing ships of 10,000 tons each; three 7,500-ton motor cargo ships; two 10,000-ton cargo vessels; six 4,700-ton cargo vessels; 15 1,350-ton and 20 350-ton coaster type cargo vessels; 10 Algerine minesweepers; 16 wooden minesweepers; 15 large sea-going tugs; more than 100 other tugs; and four Tribal class destroyers.

The last of the 63 transport ferries is scheduled to be delivered in June, 1946. Eight have already been completed. The stores-issuing ships and the 10,000-ton cargo vessels will be completed in August, 1945. The last of the 4,700-ton cargo vessels is also scheduled for delivery in August, 1945. All the coaster type vessels will be delivered by the end of January, 1946. In addition four ships are being converted; two as dockyard accommodation ships, and two as amenity ships for Pacific operation.

Present orders for Algerine minesweepers will be completed in November, 1945, while orders for wooden minesweepers will be finished in August of this year. Work on the large seagoing tugs will continue until April, 1946; the