

TIGHT BINDING.

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Canada produced vast quantities of munitions during the Great War, but did not manufacture every kind and type of armament. Some plant, some machinery and some skill in the production of these articles were still available. The industrial development of the country justified the statement that Canada could readily produce a wide line of armaments and munitions of war. However, in some cases such as special metals, etc., economical production would depend upon the quantity demanded. In some few cases, such as ammunition of certain kinds of which only a small quantity would be required facilities for inspection and proof would be extremely expensive, and they would hesitate before undertaking manufacture. Canada now produced in Government arsenals quantities of certain types of small arm and gun ammunition to supply the training requirements. It was the intention to make full use of existing arsenals, but experience points to the necessity of relying upon private industry, properly controlled by Government, for bulk requirements. They were proceeding with a survey of all potential armament and munition producing resources. In common with other Dominions, Canada had obtained much of its armament and munitions from Great Britain. It had been realised for some time, however, that it was dangerous to rely solely upon sources of supply which were subject to repeated attack and possible destruction. Were it only to increase possible quantity production, it would be a good policy to create auxiliary sources of supply with due regard to safe location. He mentioned in passing that on some occasions there had been delays in executing orders placed by Canada in the United Kingdom, and he was grateful to know that the Minister for Co-ordination of Defence had undertaken to survey the situation.

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W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
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