

to the most important matters direct communications from Mr. Churchill, the British Prime Minister, and I communicate direct with him. In addition to that I receive, as Secretary of State for External Affairs, numbers of communications which come from the British government through the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs on all matters pertaining to the war. The result is that every day, before the day ends, my colleagues and I have here in Ottawa as complete a record as it is possible to obtain with respect to matters relating to the war up to that moment. There may be some matters that have to stand over for a day or two; but so far as procedure has gone up to the present, and speaking generally, we have been amazed at the rapidity with which the government has been kept informed on most matters. It may be that my hon. friend is not aware of how complete the whole system of consultation and conference is, but I trust that what I have said will answer any doubts there may be in his mind on that question.

My hon. friend has spoken about the man-power problem in Canada. Well, we have a man-power problem. Every country that is at war, indeed, for that matter even if it is not at war, has that problem to a greater or less degree. There certainly is no more difficult situation to handle than that of taking people out of occupations in which they have spent their lives and putting them into entirely different occupations. There is nothing more disrupting to good feeling than to be obliged, as the government is, in a time of war, to make restrictions which will prevent people from carrying on the pursuits in which they have been engaged since their earliest days and to which they had hoped to devote their lives, and to tell them to do something else, to go somewhere else. There is nothing more distasteful than suddenly to be obliged to have an officer of the government go into the homes of citizens of our country and tell them that it is a part of government policy that not merely the men but in some cases the women as well in those homes must leave them in order to help in the war industries of the country or to take part in some other form of war service. This is the most difficult problem with which any country can be faced at any time, and the amazing thing to me is that we have been able to work out matters as smoothly as we have.

At the last session of parliament I gave the house a statement of what I thought the man-power requirements for this year would be. Hon. members will see in *Hansard* of March 24, 1942, my statement of the estimate of what would be required to fulfil man-power

needs for the fiscal year 1942-43. These were the figures given: war industry, 100,000; navy, 13,000; army, 90,000-100,000; air force, 70,000-80,000, making a total of from 173,000 to 193,000 for the armed forces all told. I think these figures were also given, in part at least, by my colleague the Minister of National Defence.

Various revisions have been made from time to time in the light of changing needs of the war. The army estimates were raised because of the increased home defence programme. What are the actual achievements? I have given the estimates. The actual achievements for 1942—that is, for the calendar year—were these: For war industries, instead of merely the number estimated being provided, that is 100,000, there were over 300,000 added. That was the number of persons who entered war industries. As regards the armed forces, the number was over 200,000, a figure above that which in the earlier stage had been estimated with regard to the three forces. In other words, the achievements in the mobilization of man-power greatly exceeded the earlier estimate in 1942.

There may be a controversy with regard to methods, if you will. All methods, particularly new methods, when they are adopted, are difficult. But what matters most is the result, and I have given the house the results of such methods as have been employed in the past year.

I made perfectly clear to the house in what I said that it would not be an easy matter to carry out the necessary measures. Speaking on January 26, 1942, I said:

The administrative machinery required to carry out the proposed measures equitably and efficiently will necessarily be intricate and complicated. The capacities of men and women cannot be weighed and measured and graded with the same certainty as the qualities of wheat, or cement or steel can be determined. To perform the complicated task of selection with success will demand both time and skill.

I also said:

Certainly no government is wise enough to decide the appropriate task for every individual in the nation. And, even if governments were all-knowing, the war would not wait while this stupendous job was being performed. What the government can do, and what we propose to undertake to do, is to meet the urgent needs by the best means we can devise.

And that I say we have carried out in the way I have indicated.

Let me repeat that the government does not claim that it has been able to do everything perfectly or even as rapidly as might be desired. Perhaps I might direct the attention of hon. members to this fact, that there has not been a single phase of the war effort—I