

Great Britain and her allies will leave those islands, and that they will then have to defend themselves against possible German invasion.

The women of Great Britain are in war industries. They have replaced the men in civilian occupations, particularly those in the transportation systems. They belong to Red Cross organizations and more particularly to organizations distributing food and clothing sent from this country and the United States. So perfect is their organization that when a family is bombed out, but is fortunate enough to survive, although deprived of all their belongings, with the possible exception of the few clothes they may be standing in, within an hour or so, no matter what time of the day or night the bombing may have taken place, the family is placed in new quarters and supplied with a variety of clothing of the correct sizes and provisions for the coming day. This is done by married women who probably in the day time have looked after the children of other married women in war industry, have done some Red Cross work and have managed to keep their own households going. I can think of no contribution being made in this time of war equal to that of the married woman of Great Britain who not only works the hardest and is the lowest paid, but who is doing her work cheerfully, and in full realization of the dangers just across the channel. Therefore, if this afternoon I make some comparisons, I do so with a full knowledge of the great efforts being made not only by the civilian population but by the three armies of which I have spoken.

Having all that in mind, I should like to tell the house that from what I have seen the Dominion of Canada can be justly proud of her civilian war work as well as of the fighting qualities and numbers of her troops. We have overseas over 200,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen, and we shall have more shortly. We have another 200,000 under arms in Canada either in training for overseas service or on active service defending our country. To the very last day of the war we shall require a considerable number of them, to defend our coasts from Alaska to British Columbia and from the maritimes to Newfoundland, and shall have to keep troops in those localities. That is essential, and the duty they are performing is equal to any contribution that will be made.

I understand that last year our enlistments exceeded those of 1941. What is even more important is the fact that the enlistments of the last half of 1942 exceeded those of the first half. That is a record which this country did not have toward the end of the last war, and one of which we may be exceptionally proud.

[Mr. W. E. Harris.]

It does not seem long ago that the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald) announced in the house his programme for the expansion of the Royal Canadian Navy. We now have 46,000 men and over 500 ships in the Royal Canadian Navy. The duty they are performing, if not greatly publicized in this country, is one which the people of Great Britain fully realize. They have a great appreciation of the protection afforded the transportation of food which has maintained that country. I do not know of any person engaged in war who undergoes a strain equal to that of the man serving in the navy. Those of us in the other services undoubtedly have moments of danger; but for long continued danger there seems to be none equal to that of the man who goes to sea over long periods of time and under a constant submarine menace.

In the Royal Canadian Air Force we have 150,000 men, a force which I believe fully justifies the planning in the fall of 1939 and justifies the hope of the Prime Minister expressed at that time that the training programme would expand and might very well be the largest single contribution of this country to the war effort. The Royal Canadian Air Force is now growing in the number of squadrons under its command, and in addition to that we have a great many men in the Royal Air Force. There is something exceptionally comforting in the knowledge of a fighting man that he has friends overhead in time of danger.

I understand the Royal Canadian Air Force has served on every front and at all times, and has performed the perhaps less glorious but nevertheless essential and important duty of going far out to sea in the protection of our coasts.

I understand that we have enlisted and enrolled over 700,000 people for military service in this country. On any basis of population we may wish to take, that is a record which will compare most favourably with that of any of our allies. In addition to this I believe we have over 900,000 people directly engaged in the war effort through the manufacture of munitions, and the like. Another 150,000 are engaged indirectly in the services essential to these manufacturing concerns. This makes a grand total of people directly engaged in the war effort in the Dominion of Canada of well over a million and a half. That again is a record of which we need not be ashamed. On the contrary, while pride is not expected of our own efforts, I assure you, sir, that all this is appreciated in Great Britain and by everyone there to whom I have spoken.