

them now. The only limit on the amount of defence construction in Canada has been the quantity of labour and materials available.

Now, next year, despite our huge programme, we hope to do some other types of construction. We are going to have to build some new buildings for operational units. We are going to do more building at Churchill. Those needs must be met first. But you may be assured that your member Mr. George Nixon, M.P., and the officers of the regiment have kept me fully alive to your need.

Now, just a word about the Reserve and its work.

Today we have in the reserve forces about the same number as in the active forces, that is about 40,000. We believe that in age, training and physique they are well up to anything that we have ever had before. The number is higher than it was on the average in the years between the war and better work is being done. We want still more men. While we have not been able to increase the construction of large scale armouries, we have added very considerably to the armoury accommodation for reserves through the adaptation of wartime buildings and where it has been possible, through the purchase of buildings. During and since the war we have built or bought armouries for practically every naval reserve division. Altogether, since 1939, it is a fair estimate that we have increased the total accommodation for the three services by more than 50%. We have increased the part occupied by the reserve army by more than 25%.

This shows the importance we attach to the reserve.

For this reason, I am glad to be here and to ask for support for this great unit, with its fine record and to thank you for the job you are doing by working together in this community in the defence of Canada.

-----

S/A