

training. I propose to take advantage of this offer unless the Commission orders to the contrary. I am of opinion that provision for the coastal defence of St. John's ought to be made in a manner similar to that which is provided for Bell Island, namely two guns and two searchlights installed at such points at the entrance to the harbour as we are advised. I think that an enquiry should be made as to whether Lewisporte is to be a substantial port for the storage and movement of oil for military planes flying the Atlantic this year and if this is so, some coastal protection there would appear to be indicated.

9. I enquired into the question of the control of navigational aids on the East and Northeast coasts and as I expected I found that the only reason the Canadians had not asked to control these lights and to deal with them in the same manner as those of the South and West coasts, was because they did not consider them of such importance to the defence of the coast of Canada. The opinion was expressed however both in Ottawa and in Halifax (Commodore Reid) that if they were responsible for the defence of Newfoundland, navigational aids on all coasts would be treated in the same manner.

10. I could get no idea from any of the Departments as to the nature of the risk of enemy action against Newfoundland and Canada. It is quite clear that all the Authorities there are very much in the same position as we are here. They do not know—there is no information that any plans are being laid and both from the naval and air angle they are guessing as to the extent to which we are in danger. They are however treating the risk as real and serious and making preparations accordingly.

11. I did not feel that I was authorized to suggest to the Canadian Government that they should undertake anything more for the present than to give us assistance in the defence of Bell Island in which I included the provision of reconnaissance planes based on St. John's. I think however that the time has come when we should know exactly what is going to be done by the United Kingdom and by the Canadian Government. It is clear that the Canadian Government can do nothing for us this year, and I think that the Dominions Office should be apprised of this fact. It may be that the United Kingdom Government has been lulled into a sense of security so far as Newfoundland is concerned by the very wide terms of Prime Minister King's statement. It may be that the Admiralty and Air Ministry have information which enables them to place a proper value upon the risks which our undefended position lays us open to, but whatever the true position is I do not think that we should remain in our present state of uncertainty and unpreparedness.

L. E. EMERSON