

(4) Further, there is the crown assets allocation committee and the War Assets Corporation, Limited, charged with the disposal of assets, including lands and buildings no longer required by the services. As soon as a decision is reached as to the closing of individual schools, these various agencies will be notified.

During the past year, and since I made my last report to this house concerning these matters, a considerable change has taken place in the requirements of the flying services at the fighting fronts. We have now achieved a position of air superiority in men and machines, and are carrying the war to the enemy by way of our heavy bombers. This has caused the Germans to emphasize the defensive, and accordingly our ratio of losses in the lighter aircraft categories such as fighters, fighter-bombers, and medium bombers, has dropped. This has reflected itself in a change in the requirements for the production of different types of aircrew, in that an increasing proportion of our aircrew is now being diverted into the heavier types of aircraft, where they will make their blows on Hitler's Europe felt in the most effective way.

Last year, when making my report, I told you that we had already trained over 50,000 aircrew in Canada. I can tell you now that this number has risen to over 86,000. Similarly, the number trained in ground trades is now above 114,000 men and we have practically reached saturation in our requirements for ground trades, both for training establishments and for operational requirements in the western hemisphere of operations. In addition to the men required by the Royal Canadian Air Force, we have enlisted and trained over 15,000 in the women's division. Here again we have reached our peak and no further personnel are needed to bring our establishments to full strength beyond what have already been enlisted and are awaiting training, and accordingly, enlistment for the women's division of the Royal Canadian Air Force has been curtailed to the comparatively small numbers required for replacements.

We have had less trouble in the past year obtaining training aircraft than in any time in the past. In elementary trainers we have all we need and the same applies for the training aircraft used in our service schools. Operational aircraft used in training, are still in relatively scarce supply due to the requirements of the various operational theatres of war and the demands from our ever-increasing overseas participation.

There has been a practical completion of all construction necessary for the continuance of the plan, and from now on, relatively little in

the way of further construction is to be expected. The requirements for repair and storage continue to increase and as the aircraft get larger, these requirements will continue to grow. This tells the story of the point the air training plan has reached to-day.

Now that the air training plan has reached its peak, I think I should say a word of thanks to all those who have contributed to its undoubted success. To officer and airman, to staff and trainees, to service and civilian personnel, and to the people of Canada who supported it. It was a truly national effort. Its fulfilment was the expression of the nation's will.

I now come to another phase of our operations, namely, western hemisphere operations; and again I ask consent of the committee to lay on the table of the house a statement of cash expenditures on western hemisphere operations since the outbreak of the war, indicating that the total estimated expenditures from September, 1939, to March 31, 1945, will be \$963,053,377, and I would also explain how the reduction in expenditures of \$71,000,000 this year as compared with last year is being brought about. The table and the explanation are as follows:

Western Hemisphere Operations

Cash expenditures from the outbreak of war are,	
Fiscal year 1939-1940.....	\$ 28,554,447
Fiscal year 1940-1941.....	50,172,423
Fiscal year 1941-1942.....	108,694,025
Fiscal year 1942-1943.....	226,827,131
(9 months) Fiscal year 1943-1944	241,614,736
Total for above period.....	\$655,862,762
Estimated additional to March 31, 1944.....	68,285,264
Total estimated expenditure from September, 1939, to March 31, 1944.....	\$724,148,026
Estimated cash 1944-1945.....	238,905,351
Total estimated expenditure September, 1939 to March 31, 1945.	\$963,053,377

This decrease in estimated cash requirements for 1944-1945 for western hemisphere operations from anticipated expenditures for 1943-1944 amounting to approximately \$71,000,000, is also mainly due to reductions in capital expenditures. The improved strategic situation has already permitted the transfer overseas of operational squadrons previously considered an essential part of the air defence of Canada. Furthermore, all major construction projects have been reviewed and, where economically feasible, they have been reduced or brought to a halt. Also, where operational possibilities warrant, certain units have been placed on a care and maintenance basis. Such curtailment in operations will eventually release man-power for overseas operations, either direct or through the training facilities of the British commonwealth air training plan.

[Mr. Power.]