

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

January-March, 1941

A. PARLIAMENT

1. CANADA'S WAR PLANS FOR 1941, EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON CANADA'S WAR PLANS FOR 1941 GIVEN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON FEBRUARY 17, 1941.

Much careful thought has been given by the war committee of the cabinet to the organization of the new phases of Canada's war effort. In working out our plans we had not only the advice of our own military and industrial experts but the benefit of first-hand knowledge gained by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) and the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) during their recent visits to the United Kingdom. A program for 1941, based on the utilization of Canada's utmost productive capacity, has been drawn up in complete agreement with the British government. The measures which have been decided upon are being timed to fit into the program of the admiralty, the war office, the air ministry and the supply departments of the United Kingdom. As an introduction to the discussion of the war appropriation bill I perhaps cannot do better than to place on *Hansard* a brief outline of these measures. They will be dealt with in detail by my colleagues in the discussion of the bill. Perhaps this is a convenient moment at which to remind hon. members that very full reviews of Canada's war effort were given by the ministers of the departments concerned, in the debate on the address. These reviews will, of course, not need to be repeated.

To-day the strength of Canada's navy is 175 ships and over 15,000 men of all ranks. Under the new programme the expansion will continue at a rapid rate, bringing the navy by March 31, 1942, up to an estimated strength of 413 ships and 26,920 men. I should add that, in addition to the merchant ships being built in increasing numbers, it is proposed to undertake the building of destroyers in Canadian shipyards.