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CANADA AND THE WAR

War Record of the Mackenzie King Administration

NATIONAL DEFENCE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The second of a series of radio addresses delivered by Rt. Hon
W. L. Mackenzie King from Ottawa: 21st February, 1940.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since my broadcast was delivered, the Leader of the Opposition has also spoken to you over the radio. In his broadcast, on Friday evening last, Dr. Manion gave it as his opinion that the present administration no longer merited your confidence. He centred his attack on the government's war effort. These are the words he used:

"Canada confronts a grave crisis. The King Government is responsible for our unpreparedness, and our weak war effort. Therefore, it is the duty of all those who love this Canada of ours to work together to defeat that government."

There is no mistaking the meaning of that language. Dr. Manion wishes the present government to be defeated. He has stated the issue as he sees it. It is the government's war record. I am quite prepared to accept his challenge. He has named the issue. I now propose to meet it.

Canada's Contribution Made Possible Through Foresight.

In what I am about to say, I shall emphasize, and I hope that you will remember, the following important facts. My

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colleagues and I took every care to see that war, if it came, should find Canada as well prepared as a peace-loving country could be. When war was near, we took every possible step to place our defence forces in a state of preparation for active service. When war appeared inevitable, Parliament was instantly summoned. Canada forthwith, by the decision of her Parliament, took her place at the side of the Allies.

In anticipation of Parliament's decision, we had already begun direct and daily consultation with Britain. We have since continued such consultation for the purpose of working out and perfecting plans for vigorous, prompt and effective co-operation. We had established the security of this country in its own defences. We were, therefore, able at once to make valuable contributions to the cause of the Allies. We were able to mobilize farm and factory, manpower and money, on the side of Britain and France. Our foresight made possible the steady growth of our national endeavour. It ensured from that day, and from this day onward, a maximum of effort, with a minimum of waste.

Needs of Allied Powers Basis of Canada's War Effort.

I cannot reveal the details of the plans of the Allies. You will understand why. I would like to tell you what they are, but I have no intention of telling the enemy. I can only assure you of the most complete and continuous co-operation between our Allies and ourselves.

In the last war, Canada's main contribution was the despatch of infantry to France. That was what the Allied powers wanted Canada to do then. Our whole military effort

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W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950,
MG 26 J 4, Volume 385, pages C269841-C270648

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