

to-day, unhappy France has all my admiration. I am French and of French ancestry. I hold a place in this parliament where Frenchmen must be respected and honoured, whatever opinion or opinions may be held or expressed about present-day France and, especially, about the Free French.

In the course of those events, we saw months go by while our war effort increased steadily.

Our army was composed of 4,500 men in 1939; to-day—I am speaking of the active army—it includes 250,000 men who enlisted voluntarily, and a large proportion of those volunteers come from the province of Quebec and from my city. There are 125,000 in England, in Newfoundland, in Nova Scotia, in the West Indies or in other parts of the world, and we have lost over 2,000 of them in Hong Kong. Our recruits continue to appear at the voluntary recruiting offices. And I admit that they are not always given encouragement by those who should extend the greatest measure of help and cooperation to the government.

Our air force was almost non-existent before the war. After the lapse of two years, we have had 100,000 men in one hundred air training schools maintained in this country. No nation in the world has an air training system like the training plan which is now carried out in our own country. That fact is stated over and over again even in Great Britain; we can hear a similar comment voiced in the United States. That training system is a model. Our airmen are to be found in every part of the world, and they are known for their bravery, their courage and their attainments. They also enlisted voluntarily.

Before the war our navy had only 1,800 men and scarcely fifteen ships. Today we have in the Canadian navy 28,000 men and over 300 ships. On every sea lane and over all the oceans are to be met Canadians who help Great Britain in the most useful way. But what I have just stated refers merely to the manpower supplied by us in the great conflict that is now raging. As regards our expenditure, it behooves me to quote some figures—I am not fond of them, but they are helpful for purposes of comparison. I shall have to quote some figures from official documents in order to show the expansion of our industrial and economic effort. Great changes have occurred in our national economy since the beginning of the war. Industry has taken a wonderful development and our commercial activity has constantly increased. National income also shows a huge increase. I know that figures are not very interesting. However, I feel that I am in duty bound to quote some. The

most recent figures show that industrial production in the first six months of 1941 has increased by 12·3 per cent as compared with the same period of the preceding year, while production of manufactured goods has increased by 11 per cent. The volume of business has increased by 12·9 per cent; mining production, by 2·2 per cent; exports, excluding gold movement, by 30·1 per cent, and imports, by 30·1 per cent. The total amount of building contracts awarded represents an increase of 71·8 per cent over the same period of last year. Car loadings have improved by 15 per cent and the gross earnings of the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific have increased by 28·8 per cent. The employment index has risen by 21·2 per cent, while employment in the manufacturing industries has soared to a level 24·8 per cent higher. The national revenue has increased by 11·5 per cent.

It has been necessary for the Canadian government to help and finance private industries towards the equipment and expansion of plants and the purchase of materials. Our government, together with that of Great Britain, have guaranteed capital advances amounting to more than 520 million dollars. Twelve war industries are owned and operated by the government. Through the supply board, we buy and ship our agricultural products to Great Britain. Our most important exports are wheat, bacon and cheese, three products that are of first necessity for the overseas population. Our own people have decreased their domestic consumption of bacon by 25 per cent to enable the government to increase the quantities shipped. At the present moment almost all our Canadian plants are busy on war production. Many new factories have been built; others have been expanded. On September 30 last, the total value of war contracts awarded by the government through the Department of Munitions, amounted to \$2,600,000,000. A large number of keels have been laid and the number of ships being built will increase as the necessary skilled workers become available.

To-day, we are producing guns, small arms, search-lights, munitions, aeroplanes, trucks and tanks.

Every month, every week, every day, we witness the growth of our war industries. Our efforts in this field will be limited only by the available supply of men and materials.

Our pre-war budget totalled \$500,000,000. To-day it is five times higher and the speech from the throne indicates that our future expenditures will be still more important.