

4. We are also without information from Great Britain. It is true that in the Defence Scheme reference is made to a naval flotilla being based on St. John's. We have however heard nothing further in respect of this matter, nor have we been informed whether it is proposed that the Admiralty or Air Ministry intend to patrol our coasts.

5. The defence of Bell Island had been the subject of consideration by the military and naval authorities and they plan for its defence along the lines of the despatch to Sir Gerald Campbell of 14th November, 1939. General Anderson and Vice-Admiral Nelles were awaiting orders from the Department of External Affairs before moving further in the matter, and we have recently received a telegram to the effect that preparations for the provision of guns and training personnel can now be made.

6. I enquired as to what was intended as to the R.C.A.F. and I found that it is proposed to establish a base for seaplanes at Red Bay in the Straits of Belle Isle and to use Botwood for seaplanes also. It will be noted that no provision is made to base anything on Newfoundland which would cover that very important part of our coast from Cape Freels to Cape Race. I suggested to Vice-Marshal Croil that reconnaissance seaplanes based upon Bay Bulls Big Pond might be considered, or if this particular stretch of water was unsuited a base might be found in Trepassey, St. Mary's or Placentia Bay. He appreciated the value of such a base, but stated that the difficulty at present existing and one which might continue for some time, is that they have not any planes to spare.

7. Vice-Admiral Nelles stated that the question of the patrol of our East coast had not been considered. The Canadian Navy with its destroyers and auxiliary craft will patrol the New Brunswick-Nova Scotian and Gaspé coasts, the West coast of Newfoundland and part of the Southwest coast, all with a view of protecting the seaborne traffic of Canada. He told me that the dockyards of Canada are working at full pressure to turn out as many small craft for this purpose as possible. He does not expect deliveries until September and he sees no hope of providing anything for our defence until next year.

8. On the military side there is not very much that Canada can do. They are providing two guns and two searchlights for the defence of Bell Island and will lend us the necessary personnel to train our militia in their use. It will take a month or two to erect the necessary barracks and install the guns and lights. Colonel Craig in charge of Artillery at Halifax very kindly suggested that I should send a small number of our Militia to Halifax at once and he would put them in training for handling guns and lights so that when the Bell Island defences are installed, some of the men will have had some