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Close co-operation between naval and air forces was recognized to be essential and the immediate creation of at least one flotilla of destroyers was decided upon.

This did not imply that the militia was to be neglected, nor has it been. On the contrary vital tasks were allotted to the militia service in the defence of Canada and the appropriations for this service have been almost trebled in the past five years. But of all three services the militia, with its trained permanent force and its hundreds of units scattered throughout the country was in 1936, despite reduced appropriations in the preceding five years, the one service that was sufficiently trained and equipped to meet an emergency call, if grim necessity arose.

Such were the problem, the policy and the programme laid down by the Minister in February, 1937.

Vast strides have been made since that day. Not the least of the forward steps has been the development of public opinion. The big 35 million dollar defence budget of 1937 staggered the country at first, and there were murmurings about its needless extravagance. There was opposition in parliament.

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W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
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