

effective organization of Canada's armed forces so that whatever might befall in the future we should be prepared, to the limit of our strength and resources, to take care of our own responsibilities.

In the "immediate" category I spoke of the strengthening and further organization of our fixed and our mobile defences in the east. I indicated too that we were not overlooking the west coast defences. But I stressed that hand in hand with these measures of North American defence we were concentrating on the training and equipping of the Canadian active service force to serve wherever they might be required either in Canada or overseas. And let me remind my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson), who seemed to think that we were attaching too much importance to Canadian defence, that I stressed in July that our front line was the island fortress of the British isles. Let me also tell him that, speaking in Montreal in September, I said, "Canada is in this war at the side of Britain, and Canada's front line is in England." And to-day, in spite of the continuous siege of that fortress by every means and every method which science and vandalism and brutality could devise, our Canadians stand side by side with the men of the British isles and of the empire on that front line which still holds firm. The house heard yesterday the eye-witness story told by the Minister of National War Services (Mr. Gardiner) of the steadfastness, not only of the sailors and soldiers and airmen in and around the British isles, but of those stouthearted millions of people which make up their citizenship. They have taught their enemies, they have reassured their friends, that man is greater than the machine, that it takes more than engines of war in seemingly overwhelming numbers, more than the savage deluge of high explosives, to overcome the will to freedom. They have proven that disadvantages in equipment may be outweighed by superiority in fortitude and fearlessness.

In July, referring to immediate activities, I spoke of the necessity of providing maximum preliminary training for available man-power, and also of the requirements for internal security. And as our general and long-term objective I said that our task must be never again to lapse into the inadequate position in which the armed forces of Canada—and Canada was not unique in this respect—had been placed for many years prior to the outbreak of war.

I can say to the house that those principles on which we were working then are the principles we are working on to-day. Any change has been only to emphasize more than ever the vital interest we feel in helping to hold and strengthen that front line on the English channel.

The carrying out of these principles, since I spoke to the house in July, has taken this country through a summer and into an autumn of