

The Prime Minister announced to-day that for the immediate needs of the Air Force and the British Commonwealth Air Training plan in its present stage of development, the Government has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. James Stewart Duncan of the City of Toronto for the post of Associate Acting Deputy Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Duncan is the Vice-President and General Manager of the Massey-Harris Company and, as such, has business obligations which make it impossible for him to promise to continue in the service of the Government for a lengthy period of time. He has, however, undertaken to devote his wide business experience and organizing ability to the service of the Defence Department at this juncture for a period of three months. During this period, Mr. Duncan will be able to contribute materially to the organization of the Air Branch of the Department of Defence.

Lt.-Col. Henri DesRosiers will continue to devote his full time to the work of the Militia Service Branch. The change in the administration of the Department of National Defence, thus forecast, will mean that each branch of the services, army, navy and air force, will be exclusively represented by an Associate Deputy Minister. The result will be a general co-ordination of all three departments, under the supervision of the Minister of National Defence, to meet the necessities of the situation, as Canada's war effort progresses, and the allied war effort increases.

The confirmation of Lt.-Col. DesRosiers, and Lt.-Col. Maclachlan, in their respective spheres, and the enlistment of Mr. Duncan in the national service are in line with the government's policy of securing the best available men for the service of the state in times of national emergency.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS' HOME GUARD, OFFICIAL STATEMENT, 23rd OF MAY

The Hon. Norman McL. Rogers, Minister of National Defence, announced the establishment of a Veterans' Home Guard on the 23rd of May in the House of Commons.

Mr. Rogers stated: "It has been decided to establish immediately a force to be known as the 'Veterans' Home Guards' for the more adequate protection of military property or for any other purpose that may be found necessary in Canada. The force at the outset shall consist of 12 companies, to be expanded if circumstances so require, distributed across Canada and under the military district in which they are located. Each company shall be in command of an officer of the rank of major, and shall consist of 250 all ranks.