

because it takes longer to make ships or planes than it does tanks.

INDUSTRIAL DEFENCE

The importance of industrial and technical development is strongly reflected in the changed position of the Armed Forces. In the Army, the Engineers, Signals, Service Corps, Ordnance Corps and RCEME have today a total of over 8,500 officers and men and employ a total of 10,000 civilians. Ordnance has the three largest depots of their kind in Canada and I think you have been impressed today with what you have seen of the work done at Longue Pointe. Ordnance handles 216,000 different articles. RCEME operates 28 workshops, each well equipped for the job it has to do. Signals operates 34,000 miles of modern radio teletype services. Its 22 stations supply all the communications in the Northwest Territories and it also operates 6 radio stations there. The three Services have in use or in mobilization stores about 25,000 motor vehicles. The Transport Command of the R.C.A.F. operates 14 regular long distance services a week.

To provide officers of the high quality required today, Canada has in full operation a comprehensive training programme. We have over 3,500 officers or officer candidates in training to a general level of university graduate standard, who will have a year of practical experience in the work of their service. In proportion to population no other country has so many officers training to such standards.

In all these respects we are in quite a different position from where we were in 1939. Also, we have a large part, probably two-thirds, of the equipment that would be required for the forces during the first year of an emergency. While the productive capacity of industry was increased 60% during the war and more since, practically all of that productive capacity is now at work to meet civilian needs. Large scale defence needs could only be met by diverting men and materials from production for civilian uses and to make the necessary conversion at a time of full employment would require planning and organizing capacity of the highest order.

On this account, the work of your organization and the Industrial Defence Board is of great national importance.

You have recognized this by your participation in this work and your presence here tonight. At your request, and in appreciation of your interest, I propose to give as full and frank a statement of all the main questions relating to industrial organization as I can. You will appreciate some of the difficulties I am in with regard to this. Now let me suggest what can be attempted in the way of overcoming these difficulties. The best course seems to me to put down a number of questions and then give the answers. You can judge how easy this is when you hear the first question.

1. Will there be war?

Answer:

Since the war, the Soviet's manifest intention to carry on the aggressive promotion of communism everywhere by all means short of immediate war has challenged every sensible people who want to stay free to look to their defences. Canada, like the United States, is vitally interested that like-minded nations pool their strengths as the best way to prevent and if necessary to stop aggression.