

INDUSTRIAL SURVEY

One other vital defence activity remains to be described. Prior to 1935 no survey of Canadian industrial capacity for the production of defence equipment had been made.

One of the new minister's first steps was to recreate the office of Master-General of the Ordnance and to set up under his direction a Supply Committee.

This Committee has made a survey of industry, investigating and examining no fewer than 1700 industrial plants. The equipment in these plants has been recorded in its relation to the various requirements of defence.

With this work completed it will be possible at a moment's notice to ascertain the exact capacity of Canada to produce any given item.

It is largely as a result of this survey and the close contact with industry thus established that the manufacture of many essential items of defence equipment, never before produced in this country, has been made possible.

For the greatest and most difficult problem that the Department faced when the present minister initiated his defence programme was that of production.

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