

War Appropriation—Air Services

I also have a statement indicating the man-power strength of the Royal Canadian Air Force each year since the beginning of the war, as follows:

Man-power Strength

Strength

Royal Canadian Air Force strength for each of the following years on the dates stated, were,—

31st August, 1939.....	4,061
2nd April, 1940.....	10,598
31st March, 1941.....	47,920
31st March, 1942.....	112,759
2nd April, 1943.....	170,366
18th February, 1944.....	206,548

Man-power requirements for the next year, that is April 1, 1944, to March 31, 1945, are 26,000.

This reduction from requirements of previous years, is largely due to the fact that groundcrew requirements have been stabilized and we have again this year, owing largely to the intensive recruiting campaign of last October, a substantial aircrew reserve in hand. In addition remustering to aircrew trades from groundcrew will yield a considerable number of aircrew. Last year 6,192 groundcrew were remustered to aircrew. This, together with the fact that there will be a reduction during the course of the year of entrants into training, lowers our aircrew requirements for the year.

Now I propose to divide this review of last year's operations into three parts:

Part 1. British commonwealth joint air training plan,

Part 2. Western hemisphere operations,

Part 3. Overseas operations.

With regard to the British commonwealth air training plan, the cash expenditures from inception are:

Fiscal year 1939-1940.....	\$ 3,298,747
Fiscal year 1940-1941.....	124,354,624
Fiscal year 1941-1942.....	244,060,067
Fiscal year 1942-1943.....	401,556,818
(9 months) Fiscal year 1943-1944	339,521,105

Total for above period..... \$1,112,791,361

Estimated additional to March 31, 1944 134,679,397

Total estimated expenditure from inception to March 31, 1944.... 1,247,470,758

Estimated cash 1944-1945..... 387,937,507

Total estimated expenditure from inception to March 31, 1945.... \$1,635,408,265

These figures represent the cash which has been found and estimated still to be found by the Canadian government and are additional to contributions in kind by the United Kingdom government.

[Mr. Power.]

The decrease in estimated cash requirements during 1944-45, for the British commonwealth air training plan from the anticipated 1943-44 expenditures amounting to approximately \$86,000,000, is chiefly attributable to reductions in capital expenditures and pay and allowances. The plan has now passed its ultimate and capital expenditures have been reduced to the practical minimum.

Certain reductions in the scope of the training organization were anticipated and these estimates give effect to these reductions. Since preparation of the estimates, however, decisions have been made which will ultimately reduce the plan still further. These further reductions cannot have an early effect on recurring expenditure as training establishments must keep in operation for the completion of the training of aircrew and groundcrew now in training. It may be noted that most aircrew courses are of approximately twelve months' duration and it is obvious that the better part of the fiscal year 1944-45 will elapse before curtailment to any worthwhile extent can be accomplished in the operation of advanced schools, which, besides being the most numerous, are also the most costly to operate.

The British commonwealth air training plan has this year reached the zenith of its development, and its effect has been felt around the world. Wherever our allied airmen fly, will be found graduates of this plan: from the antipodes to the bleak wastes of Greenland, from India to Alaska, our Canadian-trained aviators perform their daily tasks as they were so well taught to do by the thousands of men in the instructional, technical and administrative staffs of our training plan.

The spectacular and more publicized part of this plan, the production of our fighting aircrew, has continued at full flow. No demands for men of the various flying categories have been unheeded, and the continuous development of this plan has kept abreast of the requirements of the fighting fronts.

The original agreement for the British commonwealth joint air training plan entered into December 13, 1939, has been amended by supplementary agreements in June, 1942, and April, 1943. A further change was made in the agreement in December, 1943, and again in February, 1944. These changes were announced to the house in a statement made on February 16, appearing at page 535 of *Hansard*. I quote:

At the present time we have the capital and the necessary immediate replacements.

Our long-term war plans entail certain reductions in the numbers of entrants to aircrew training.

Consequent upon the reduction in intake of trainees, there will be a gradual and progressive