

coming year, and about 30,000 of these are to be recruited within the next two or three months. In the coming year about 40,000 additional men will be made available for home defence duties after completing a period of four months training. The first four-months class of about 5,000 to graduate in July will release soldiers now on active service in Canada for overseas duty.

Nearly half of Canada's estimated direct war expenditure in the present fiscal year will be devoted to the army. While first consideration has necessarily been given to the equipping of Canadian overseas forces and to sending material to Britain, the Canadian Army at home is receiving a steadily increasing flow of equipment.

THE AIR FORCE

The strength of the Royal Canadian Air Force is today many times what it was at the outbreak of war. It is not possible to give here the numerical strength of the Air Force, but it can be said that about 35,000 additional men will be added to the Air Force in the coming year.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, first announced in September 1939, has expanded very rapidly to keep pace with the urgent demands of the war. It is now turning out thousands of pilots, gunners and observers at about twice the rate originally planned for this time. The Plan now operates over 60 schools from coast to coast and it is expected that by September of this year 83 schools will be operating.

The estimated cost of the Air Training Plan is now \$1,000,000,000, of which amount Canada will supply 65%. Canada provides 80% of the students, and of this number it was recently estimated that between 7% and 10% are Americans.

In addition to despatching men overseas, the R.C.A.F. is a powerful factor in Canadian defence. Its planes patrol Canadian coasts daily.

HOME DEFENCE

Since the outbreak of war Canada has taken steps greatly to strengthen the defence of her coasts and is co-operating with the United States in joint defence measures. Both Canadian Coasts are guarded by anti-submarine devices, naval and air patrols operating from coastal bases, coastal and anti-aircraft guns and large concentration of troops. Over one hundred air fields have been built under the Air Training Plan, strategic air bases have been built in coastal areas, and Canada will spend \$20,000,000 this year on additional land and sea air bases of strategic importance, including a string of air fields designed to give military planes access to Alaska. Troops guard vital points throughout the country.

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