

Royal Air Force, and in addition we shall shortly have in operation in England twenty-eight all-Canadian squadrons of our own air force. It is unnecessary for me to tell of the heroism and devotion to duty of these pilots, observers, air gunners, radio men and other aircrew, of whom many have already given their lives in the service of their country.

Our navy has grown from fifteen ships, with a personnel of 1,800, to approximately 350 ships with a personnel of 27,000, and these Canadian seamen on these Canadian ships have assisted in convoying more than 7,000 ships across the Atlantic carrying 42,500,000 tons of cargo to the British isles. Our navy is engaged in active operations against the enemy wherever he can be found upon the high seas. Unfortunately we have lost ships on account of enemy action, but in all encounters the Canadian navy has proven itself more than a match for the enemy, and that enemy now has the same respect for the white ensign which flies on the ships of the Royal Canadian Navy as it always had for that same ensign when it was flying on the ships of the British fleet.

At home our factories are working night and day, turning out great quantities of field guns, anti-aircraft guns and naval guns. Bren guns are being produced at the rate of thousands a month. Our shipyards are busy turning out combat ships and cargo ships. Our aircraft factories are to-day turning out fifteen different types of aircraft, while other factories are making tanks and motor vehicles of all kinds. It is impossible for me to mention our complete line of production, but I must not fail to state that one of our greatest achievements is the production of explosives of all kinds. Numerous arsenals costing millions of dollars have been built in Canada, and to-day are manufacturing a continuous supply of the most deadly explosives.

We have also made a great contribution from our farms. In spite of difficulties, farmers have been able to produce foodstuffs so urgently needed in Britain, and when the history of this war is written it will be recorded that the farmers of Canada, in spite of great scarcity of labour and other difficulties, produced the food which fed the men who won the war. This contribution made by Canada to the allied cause has been, to use the words of the great Churchill, "magnificent". Some have suggested that we should be at the top of our production now. They forget that it takes years to start from nothing and attain the maximum of munition production. Winston Churchill himself, speaking on that subject in the British House of Commons, on December

2, 1941, stated, "first year, nothing at all, second year, very little, third year, quite a lot, fourth year, all you want."

Canada, when one considers that at the beginning of this war we had very few dies, tools, or blue prints, can scarcely be said to be beyond the second year. Nevertheless, instead of producing "very little" we are producing "quite a lot". Credit for that rapid expansion and that great accomplishment must be given to the ministers directly responsible, to their officers, to the many officials who head the various boards, together with their associates and subordinates, and to the executives, directors, and managers of our industrial plants; also, and more especially, to that great body of working men and women who have toiled long hours to make that production possible.

But without leadership all this would have been impossible. There is one man who has given this leadership, one man who has co-ordinated the activities of the various departments, one man who has kept Canada united. That man sits in parliament to-day. He is one whom I am proud to call my leader, and whom all Canadians, in this testing time of our history, are fortunate to be able to call our Prime Minister. History will record that, at the commencement of this war, he called parliament in the shortest possible time, and in two days parliament, under his leadership, voted unanimously to march side by side with Britain in the defence of world freedom. Under his leadership this parliament passed the National Resources Mobilization Act, which placed all the wealth of Canada, human and material, at the disposal of the government. With a boldness required of a war-time leader he announced regulations which controlled industry and fixed prices, and thereby saved Canada from a disastrous era of inflation. On December 7, 1941, Japan treacherously attacked the United States. On that same day, before the United States or Great Britain had taken action, Canada asked His Majesty's approval of a proclamation declaring that a state of war existed between Canada and Japan. Throughout his public life the Prime Minister has advocated measures which would tend toward bringing about a feeling of friendship between our empire and the United States. Within the last few weeks he has seen the culmination of his efforts in the visit of a British Prime Minister from Westminster to the President of the United States at Washington.

With the entry of Japan into the war, new problems have arisen. We are fighting not only on the Atlantic but also on the Pacific. All the world is now involved in this war, and Canada is fighting for its very existence. We