

to what should have been done in the circumstances. But let me ask him this question: What was the state of preparedness of Canada then? Let me go a little further and ask: What plan had the national defence council ready for the government in the event of war in Europe—and Canada voluntarily undertaking to participate? What plan of action, if any, had the government? I am advised that the national defence council had planned for four divisions, two for overseas service and two for home defence. I understand that the Prime Minister himself cancelled those plans.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Where does my hon. friend get his information?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I quite anticipated that question.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I tell him at once that I cancelled no plans at all.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I quite anticipated a denial on the part of the Prime Minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should think you would.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Under parliamentary procedure I suppose I have to accept his word, but I give my solemn word on my honour to this house that I have some evidence that four divisions were planned for by the national defence council of Canada, two for overseas and two for home service, and either the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Rogers), or members of his government stepped up and cancelled those plans.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): As a former Minister of National Defence may I say that that statement is absolutely and totally incorrect.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have to accept the minister's statement, and I suppose I have to accept the Prime Minister's statement.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will my hon. friend tell us when the plans were made?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am not subject to cross-examination. I am informed they were ready a year before war broke out—I shall not use the word "know" because I do not know personally. How could I? But I have every reason to believe that they were ready a year before war broke out. What is the situation? Six months after the declaration of war we have one division at Aldershot still under training. They have been there six months and they are still under training. Not one of them is ready yet to participate in what is going on in the western lines.

My right hon. friend made a number of speeches during the election campaign, and I should like to refer to the one he made over the radio on February 21, I believe from Ottawa. He referred to the landing of the first, second and third contingents, the first having landed on December 17 under the command of General McNaughton. May I pause here to pay a tribute to the government for having appointed him to lead the first division. I have great confidence in General McNaughton, and so have the Canadian public. As evidence of my wanting to be fair, let me say that they could not have made a better appointment. The Canadian people applauded the appointment of General McNaughton. This is what the Prime Minister said in the course of that broadcast:

All three contingents made the crossing safely and exactly according to a schedule worked out months in advance. All left Canada fully clothed and fully equipped.

With respect to clothing that statement is probably true. I think by and large they probably all had enough on their bodies to cover them from the cold, but I wonder how many cases of pneumonia there were at Aldershot, England, after the first contingent got there, as a result of the fact that the men did not have sufficient warm clothing?

Mr. ROGERS: Has my hon. friend any information?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): No. I have not. How could I? What is the good of asking me that or trying to cross-examine me? I am asking the people who ought to know. I am asking for information. The Canadian public want information. If my hon. friend has that information, let him give it. My information is that a very large number had pneumonia at Aldershot because of a lack of sufficient warm clothing.

Mr. ROGERS: That matter was dealt with, I think quite adequately, during the course of the campaign. Official statements were made on the authority of the director general of medical services that there was only the average incidence of colds or pneumonia.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If my hon. friend wants to make a speech he should do so at a later time.

Mr. ROGERS: I intend to do so.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I know that a boy from my constituency in New Brunswick who is at Aldershot got pneumonia because the issue of underclothing made to him last winter was cotton and not woollen. More than that, in the first months there certainly was a shortage of socks among the