



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE INDUSTRIAL DEFENCE OF CANADA

An address by Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, at the Annual Banquet of the Canadian Ordnance Association, at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on Thursday, October 7, 1948.

Modern defence planning, especially for a country like Canada, is a continuous process of developing fighting forces which will be the nucleus for the training and rapid expansion of larger forces in case of emergency. It involves keeping our full potential defence forces adjustable and flexible enough to keep step with developments in which we may be involved.

This process calls for steady, persistent and stable preparation and planning. From time to time reports to the nation are issued by the Department of National Defence. These endeavours to inform the taxpayer of the important stages of our defence programme, as they are completed. Their cumulative effect is under regular review by the Department.

The factors in our programme are:

- (1) Manpower
- (2) Training programmes
- (3) Equipment - research, development, production
- (4) The national economy and the extent to which it can be diverted to non-productive defence output
- (5) Developing plans for co-operation with other democracies to meet attack on our western community.

Defence today depends on industry. The industrial power of North America was the ultimate reason for the defeat of Nazi Germany. As Hanson Baldwin has said:

"The factories of America, the industrial know-how of America, and the mechanical competence of America ... won the war."

In Canada we have made Defence Research a fourth arm; industry is the fifth and on it depends all the rest.

Recognizing this, ranking service officers suggested the formation of this Association and I was glad to welcome this at your first meeting a year ago. Since then you have made satisfactory progress.

There is no need here to stress the importance of industrial organization for defence purposes and I propose to deal specifically with all the main aspects of industrial defence planning. In doing so you will see that for convenience I frequently use illustrations from the Army but it should be remembered that the Navy and Air Force present problems of even greater difficulty