

3. He aroused public opinion on the need for adequate defence as it has not been aroused for almost a century.

Mr. Mackenzie's first step on taking office was to obtain from the heads of each of the three armed services, naval, militia and air, comprehensive reports on the department's state of efficiency in relation to the problems confronting it.

The reports revealed an appalling condition. The air force had no planes fit to engage in active service. The Militia had no modern weapons, and the scantiest supply of ammunition. Many officers were not trained in their duties. Of the seven or eight naval craft afloat all but three - two destroyers and one minesweeper - were due or overdue for retirement.

The result was that at one of the most critical moments in international history since 1918, the Mackenzie King Government found itself faced with the risk of war and with no defence equipment in hand for this Dominion.

Through the driving energy of Hon. Ian Mackenzie, supported in all points by the present Government, that critical situation has been met,

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
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