

*Bras d'Or*, and the merchant sailors who have faced all the dangers of the ocean, made more perilous by a ruthless foe, have died as heroes in their country's cause.

In the air, up to and including the end of October, we have lost in the Royal Canadian Air Force twenty-seven officers and forty-one airmen in Canada. Outside Canada we have lost five officers and two airmen. In addition to these casualties, 203 Canadians serving with the Royal Air Force have lost their lives on active service.

The men who have lost their lives in the training schools have sacrificed themselves for their comrades who will carry on their traditions in the skies of battle. Their gallantry will long be remembered in our land.

The Canadian army has lost by death in action, death from wounds, from disaster, accident and misadventure, 168 officers and men. To all who remain to fight on sea, on land and in the air, it behooves every man, woman and child in the country to dedicate every hour of labour which may be necessary in order that our sailors, our soldiers and our airmen may be fully equipped to face the perils that lie before them. They deserve at our hands the best machines, the best material, the best care that money and honest labour can provide. We know how nobly and courageously they will acquit themselves. We do not doubt them. They must have no reason to doubt us.

May I now say a word about national registration. This gigantic task was the first undertaking of the Department of National War Services after its creation on July 12. I do not need to tell hon. members how promptly, how vigorously and how efficiently the registration was organized, or how smoothly and efficiently the machinery for registration worked on August 19, 20 and 21. I want, however, to express to hon. members of all parties and groups the warm appreciation that the government feels for their effective cooperation in this great national task. The cost of the registration itself was kept at a minimum owing to the enthusiastic response of citizens in all walks of life to the call for voluntary unpaid assistance in carrying through this great survey of Canada's human resources. The response of our people to this first universal call to duty was magnificent.

Rapid progress is being made in the tabulation of the results of the national registration in order to provide a complete picture of Canada's resources of man power to meet the many and varying calls for war-time service. The government did not await comple-

tion of the laborious task of tabulation before getting under way the immediate purpose of the national registration. The first task undertaken, when the registration itself had been completed, was the preparation of the lists which have since been used for the national mobilization for basic military training of single men and childless widowers between the ages of nineteen and forty-five.

The training itself has also got under way with amazing despatch. While the Department of National War Services was engaged in preparing the lists of men to be called for service, and setting up the thirteen national war service boards, the training camps themselves were being prepared to receive the men. Critics said it could never be done in the time set by the government. But it was done, thanks to the untiring efforts of the officials and officers of the departments of National Defence and of Munitions and Supply, and the invaluable cooperation of the construction industry. On the 13th day of September a proclamation was issued calling out men for military training in the 21, 22 and 23 year old class. Shortly afterwards the registrars of the national war service boards sent out the first call for training. In response to the first call 27,559 men appeared at the training camps. After a second medical examination 2,034 of these men were rejected. The rest of the men have now completed their first period of training.

The national training scheme has taken the form recommended by the military advisers of the government. The present period of training was, to some extent, determined by the present availability of equipment. The experience which has been gained, and will be gained, by the men who are called up under its provisions will be of advantage both to the armed services and to the young men who have been called up for this branch of national service. It is providing an opportunity for a careful estimate to be made of the individual capacities of our young men, to determine their aptitude for service in the army, the navy, the air force, and war industry. As time goes on, it will also mean that those who enlist for active service, having had that basic training, will be able to complete their additional training more quickly and more efficiently. The men who have been called up have responded with an alacrity and an enthusiasm that have made us all proud of those to whose loyalty and strength the future of our country is being entrusted.

The most graphic index of the progress made in furnishing needed munitions and other war supplies and equipment is perhaps the total of war contracts let. On August 12 we had