

The appointment, the Minister said, was made on the recommendation of Air Vice-Marshal G. M. Croil, chief of the Royal Canadian Air Force and in command of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

The Honorary Air Marshal, one of the most spectacular fighting pilots during the First Great War, was credited then with having shot down a total of 72 enemy machines.

3. SUMMARY OF BROADCAST BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ON THE MOBILIZATION OF INDUSTRY FOR WAR*

Describing the War Supply Board as "The General Staff of the second front line", charged with marshalling and directing Canada's productive effort, Mr. Howe said that the success or failure of the campaign at home would depend upon the soundness of planning and efficiency of operation of the Board.

As successor to the Defence Purchasing Board which had responsibility for all purchases relating to the defence of Canada, the War Supply Board had been expanded to include the organization and mobilization of Canadian industry to meet war needs. The Board now had the additional responsibility of acting as buyer in Canada for the Governments of Canada, the United Kingdom, and France. "I doubt (said Mr. Howe) if any Canadian Board has assumed as heavy responsibilities for the expenditure of public monies".

The Board has in fact been placing from four to five hundred orders each week, with an average weekly total expenditure of some \$4,000,000. It is estimated the war orders placed to date represent the productive effort of 45,000 men working a full year. Orders placed have amounted to about \$65,000,000, exclusive of \$25,000,000 for railway rolling stock to enable transport facilities to be efficiently maintained.

In addition to its spending responsibilities, the Board is entrusted, (Mr. Howe explained) with administrative authority more sweeping than has ever been given to any agency in Canada. It has the right to let contracts, and to cancel contracts and let them elsewhere if in its opinion a contractor proves to be incapable of meeting his commitments. It has the power, likewise, to take over the management of any industrial plant if, in its judgment, incompetence or unwillingness is imperilling the war effort of the nation.

Mr. Howe outlined in some detail the problem of the outfitting of Canadian forces for service abroad, not alone in clothing and personal equipment, but in meeting requirements of food, munitions, and mechanical

* This address was published in full on the 7th of January, 1940, and may be obtained from the King's Printer, Ottawa.