

You are particularly interested in standardization and industrial organization.

Standardization

Canada's experience in the Second World War demonstrates the paramount importance of standardization. Large delays and great expense were caused through our having to make weapons and equipment to British designs but according to North American industrial techniques, procedures and even industrial standards.

Equipment standardization has three aspects:

First, industrial and engineering standards so that parts and tools and metals entering into equipment will have the same standards and be capable of doing the same work. Striking examples are screw threads, sockets for electric bulbs and tubes, and so on. Recently I was informed by the Co-ordinator of Civil Defence in Canada that there were more than 200 different types of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch couplings for fire hoses, many of which are not interchangeable. As you know, an agreement was concluded between United States, Britain and Canada on standard screw threads. Other progress has been made either in consequence of the work of committees or as the unadvertised practice of industry itself. Industrial standardization will take time as well as goodwill but in the long term it will be of benefit to industry and humanity as well as an asset in the common defence of our freedom.

Second, the second objective of standardization is to bring about the adoption by friendly nations of weapons of the same design or having at least interchangeable major parts.

Because of Canada's close relationship with your country and the United Kingdom we have a very special interest in standardization of design. A major achievement of Canadian skill was the adoption of British design radar to North American standards. Much more must be done along similar lines if we are to take full advantage of our partnership.

In the event of an emergency, Canada would be producing three or four times as many weapons as we would be using ourselves and it would be wasteful of time, effort and money if these were not produced on the same design as your own. Further, Canadian forces would never fight alone but always in association with British, American or other friendly forces. Moreover, the full potential of our industrial capacity in Canada can only be maintained in peacetime and developed in war if the industry of the two countries is integrated so that we each do the things we can do quickly and economically and have all the advantages of planned mass production with which you are so familiar here. A great step forward would be the adoption by the friendly powers of the rimless cartridge and the .300 calibre. We in Canada have decided to take that step but bringing it about is again a difficult matter because we have some hundreds of thousands of perfectly useful weapons with rimmed cartridges and the .303 calibre.

Again to bring about standardization will require time and planned effort. We have a list in Canada of all the weapons we are prepared to standardize on American designs. In fact in some directions it is almost true to say that greater progress has been made in standardization between our two countries than has been made between two services within either country. By agreement with your government Canada recently announced that fighter planes of American design known as the F.86 will be built in Canada for Canadian use. We hope that additional arrangements along similar lines will be possible. Generally speaking, it is not economical for us to make any items of equipment