

culture, of labour and of commerce will be established. Some of the immediate measures necessary to this end have already been taken; others will be adopted shortly.

Next, we must consider measures of co-operation with the United Kingdom. The safety of Canada depends upon the adequate safeguarding of our coastal regions and the great avenues of approach to the heart of this country. Foremost among these is the St. Lawrence river and gulf. At the entrance to the St. Lawrence stands the neighbouring British territory of Newfoundland and Labrador. The integrity of Newfoundland and Labrador is essential to the security of Canada. By contributing as far as we are able to the defence of Newfoundland and the other British and French territories in this hemisphere, we will not only be defending Canada but we will also be assisting Great Britain and France by enabling them to concentrate their own energies more in that part of the world in which their own immediate security is at stake. The British government, in reply to the inquiry we have made, have indicated their agreement that this would be an effective and desirable means of co-operation.

We propose to cooperate in economic pressure, which is an essential factor in the situation that faces us. Measures looking to the prevention of trading with the enemy, control of essential exports and appropriate measures with regard to alien enemies, merchant ships and property will be taken. Of special and vital importance is the furnishing of supplies of all kinds to the British and allied powers, munitions, manufactures and raw materials and foodstuffs.

The urgent necessity of a constant supply of munitions, and the ability of Canada, because of its industrial equipment and its relative accessibility to the main theatres of the war, to meet these needs in great measure, are apparent. It is a subject on which there has been consultation with the government of the United Kingdom. The British aircraft mission which was sent to this country in 1938 placed initial orders with a representative cooperative group of Canadian aircraft manufacturers. With the concurrence of the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom, a delegation organized by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and widely representative of Canadian industry recently visited the United Kingdom to study on the spot all forms of armament and munitions production with a view to the expeditious adaptation of Canadian industry to these forms of production. Representatives of the delegation recently presented to the government a report of their inquiries and conclusions. I may say that the inquiry

was carried out in the most thorough-going way, and will prove of decided help to the governments both of Canada and the United Kingdom, and that it is a fine example of the capacity and readiness to cooperate of leaders in Canadian business.

A special British mission has just arrived from the United Kingdom to survey the munitions situation further. It has been authorized by the government of the United Kingdom to place certain orders in Canada on the lines explored in consultation with the Canadian mission and to make a further survey of the situation.

Canada is, of all non-European countries, the nearest and surest source of these indispensable materials and supplies. It may be said with assurance that a determined national effort to bring our industry and agriculture to the point of highest efficiency and to keep them at that high level will be of the utmost importance to the common cause. Specific measures of economic and financial cooperation which we propose to recommend in order to make an effective contribution in this and other fields will shortly be announced.

As regards action in other theatres of war and the means and measures that might be taken, certain essential information touching the character of British and allied action and contemplated plans must be available before any intelligent and definitive decision could be made as to Canadian action even in the immediate future. On this all-important aspect of cooperation in defence, the Canadian government, like the governments of other of the dominions, is in consultation with the British government. We will continue to consult with the purpose of determining the course of action which may be regarded as most effective.

The question of an expeditionary force or units of service overseas is particularly one of wide reaching significance which will require the fullest examination. I note that Sir Henry Gullett, Australian minister for external affairs, told the Australian house of representatives on Wednesday that his government had not yet seriously considered dispatching an expeditionary force overseas. He declared that when the commonwealth had discharged its first duty to the empire, which was to ensure its own safety, and when it was better able to assess the strength of its enemies and the nature of the conflict, it would evolve proposals for further participation in the war for submission to the people. That statement indicates the Australian government are making the same general approach to the consideration of this problem as the government of Canada. There are certain