

Army Cooperation Air Squadrons Also Proceeding Overseas.

An Army Co-operation Air Squadron has also completed its training in Canada. It will very soon be joining the First Division overseas. A second similar Air Squadron to co-operate with the Second Division is in training.

The Navy Performing Silent and Effective Service.

The navy has been well called the silent service. No detailed account can be given of its activities. I may mention, however, that we have added to it steadily both in men and ships. Since the beginning of the year, orders have been placed for the largest naval ship-building programme ever undertaken in Canada. The part the navy has played in the vital task of convoying shipping in the sea lanes of the North Atlantic, the life line of Britain and France, has received the highest praise of the allied powers.

Today, there are over 70,000 men under arms in the Canadian Active Service Force, over 9,000 in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and over 6,000 in the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. These numbers will be increased by tens of thousands of young Canadians, as the Air Training Plan develops, and men continue to be recruited for the other services. On the sea, on land, and in the air, Canada's achievements in this war may well be a source of national pride.

The Home Front—The Furnishing of Supplies.

I would like now to tell you in a few words something of what has been done on the home front. We call it the home front because in this part of national service are enlisted every miner, every farmer, every fisherman, every lumberman, indeed every worker in Canada.

I need not tell you that the furnishing of supplies of all kinds is of vital importance to the success of the British and

the Allied powers. Our work on the home front is designed to fit into a common plan. In this too, our Allies have told us what they require. In this too, we have done everything within our power to meet their needs. This work is just as much part of the allied plan and just as important as our contribution of men to the armed services.

We hear so much about the vastness of our territory and the extent of our natural resources that sometimes we ourselves are apt to overlook them. Today, that very vastness and those very resources are a lasting reservoir of strength to the allied cause; for Canada stands to Europe as the nearest, the surest and the safest source of those materials and supplies without which no great nation could wage a successful war.

But our vastness and our wealth of raw materials would be of no avail unless we were able to produce, and to transport. At this crisis in our history, we are fortunate in the development of production and transportation as two arms of national service.

Railways—Airways—National Broadcasting: Essential Factors in War Economy.

We do not always remember that the federation of Canada as one nation stretching from sea to sea was made possible by the railways. While we are joined in sentiment by bonds of the heart, we are welded in material things by bonds of steel. The railways are on the front line of our national defence. The present government has resolutely refused to cut down the railway facilities of this country. Today they are at their very height of operating efficiency. Every dollar we have spent on the maintenance of the railways may now be viewed as a dollar spent on defence and preparedness. We are more than ready to meet the demands which have over-taxed the transportation systems of other countries.

What is true of our railways is true also of our progress in civil aviation. No money could have been more wisely