

*The Address—Mr. Macdonald (Brantford)*

being in Portugal and visiting or flying over other foreign lands, we have established friendships with one another which will be as enduring as life itself.

Shortly after my return to Canada I, along with every other Canadian, learned with deep regret of the passing of one of the most gifted and tolerant, broad-minded and understanding men who ever sat in this house, the Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe. He loved Canada more than life itself and gave his very life for that great love. He in turn was loved by most and respected by all. He was proud to call himself a French-Canadian, and truly indeed might he be proud of that great race who now number almost one-third of our total population, who were the first settlers in this great dominion, and who during the wars of 1775 and 1812 gave of their very lifeblood in order to save Canada for the British crown. Ernest Lapointe loved peace, and with an enthusiasm born of conviction he joined with our Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in giving leadership to Canada in order to secure peace for the world and to keep war from our shores.

Canada has contributed greatly to the forces which have kept war from our shores. The total number now serving in Canada's armed forces who have volunteered to serve anywhere in the defence of Canada has reached nearly 400,000. Actually more than 150,000 of these are now serving overseas. May I be permitted to make a comparison between this war and the last war? At no time during the last war did we have more than four divisions in France, which would total something less than 100,000 men, so that to-day we have more men outside Canada, trained and ready to serve, than we had in France at any time during the last war.

May I be permitted to make another comparison? I have stated that nearly 400,000 men are enrolled in the active army, the navy and the air force for service in any part of the world. There are some 360,000 in the active army and the air force, without counting the navy. I mention this figure because it affords a basis of comparison with the projected military effort of the United States. The United States Secretary of War has recently announced that it was planned to increase the strength of the United States army in 1942 up to 3,600,000 men. It should be remembered that the United States has no separate air force. The greater part of its fighting airmen are enrolled in the army air corps. In other words, Mr. Stimson's figure of 3,600,000 for the end of 1942 includes both the army strength and the greater part of the air strength planned for the United States

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a year hence. This is only ten times the present strength of the Canadian Army and air force, although the population of the United States is almost twelve times the population of Canada. What does this mean? It means that so far as military and air strength goes, Canada actually has to-day a greater strength in proportion to its population than the United States expects to have at the beginning of 1943—and we are not stopping at the point which has been reached to-day.

I could carry the comparison a stage further. Canada has some 130,000 men already serving in the army outside Canada. We do not know how many Canadian airmen are overseas, but we know the numbers are reckoned in thousands. The present strength of the United States army and army air corps was given by Mr. Stimson at 1,700,000. In other words, in proportion to our population, we have as many men serving outside Canada to-day as the United States has altogether in its army and army air corps, and it should not be forgotten that the greater part of the United States army is still in the United States, and that much of it is in a less advanced stage of training than the Canadian Army—the Canadian Army which is still in Canada. It is perfectly natural that Canada, after more than two years of war, should be farther advanced than the United States after less than two months of war, but at the rate of progress Canada has made, and is still making, it is going to take a long time for the United States to overtake us.

These comparisons are made in no unfriendly spirit. Every Canadian welcomed the entry of the United States into the war. Every Canadian will welcome every increase in the armed strength of the United States. Every Canadian will be happy to see the day come when the effort of the United States is proportionate to Canada's effort. But those Canadians who, in an attempt to discredit the government of their own country, are ready to belittle the magnificent effort of Canada, should at least get their facts straight. Surely, Mr. Speaker, it is about time that Canadians stopped belittling their own country, and began taking some pride in its military achievement.

When this war started, our air force consisted of very few aeroplanes and a small but valiant personnel. To-day the British commonwealth air training plan is an accomplished fact. There are ninety-two airports actually in operation, with an enlistment of over 100,000 men. What was originally a trickle of pilots has already developed into a great stream. Many of them are serving with the