

One field for standardization of great and urgent importance is the standardization of types and parts of motor vehicles. At the present time we have something like 25,000 motor vehicles in the armed forces and they are of 350 different series requiring a number of different sets of spare parts. No. 27 Ordnance Depot at London has 118,000 different spare parts for motor vehicles. With the Americans we have been adopting the neutral number system under which we have been giving in addition to the manufacturers' catalogue number, a neutral number to all parts that are common to more than one car. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of parts by more than 17,000. One part - "washers lock spring" is made by 23 prime manufacturers and used by 155 suppliers. Incidentally we found that another part was made by 11 different manufacturers which quoted prices for it varying from \$2.10 to \$12.00 for the same interchangeable part.

Standardization of design is being carried on directly between each service. It has sometimes been possible for a service of one country to make greater progress with its opposite number than two services of the same country are able to make together.

As Canada would only be fighting in close association with either British or American forces, we are therefore taking steps to familiarize our men with the techniques of both. This is not as difficult as it sounds. I am told that a good gunner accustomed to British design equipment can become proficient with American equipment in under a week. More than half our planes and some of our artillery are of American design.

Moreover, we have adopted much the same communication systems, battle procedure and battle orders. We have had so much exchange of personnel and information that there would be little organizational difficulty in working together in tactical co-operation.

A good deal of general equipment such as clothing and shoes and some vehicles and weapons and practically all equipment for use in the Arctic is of Canadian design. If large scale production were needed this would be no doubt accepted by the other co-operating countries, for we make available to them the results of our work there.

12. What is to be done about industrial defence planning with the United States?

Answer:

This was planned in the continuation of joint defence arrangements announced in the Prime Minister's statement on February 12, 1947. Until recently neither country has placed orders for any considerable quantity of defence materials and planning had not advanced to the stage where peacetime defence needs could be accurately foreshadowed. Now that the United States and Canada are simultaneously surveying requirements and procurement capacity, we are taking steps to work out arrangements to plan and carry out the logical utilization of the resources of both countries.

13. What is being done about the development of new weapons and to maintain or increase productive capacity necessary to meet strategic requirements?

Answer:

The aviation industry is probably uppermost in your