

firmly maintained until the enemy is defeated in Europe and in Asia. They believe the Government's primary task, and the primary duty of the Canadian people, is to concentrate on the prosecution of the war. Our fighting men must be assured that there will be no diversion from this vital task and no relaxation of Canada's war effort. Till the war is won, the policies of my Government will continue to be shaped to that end.

Our war effort has attained gigantic proportions and has been a marvel to our friends and associates in arms. A glance at some figures will show how that war effort has expanded. The Canadian Navy, which before the war had a strength of some 1,700 men, has to-day more than 70,000, and it is expected that the total will go to 90,000 within the year. The Army's pre-war strength was 4,500, and its present strength is 470,000. In the Air Force, prior to our entry into the war, we had 4,000 men, and now there are 185,000. Enlistments in the women's branches of these services to date total more than 37,000. The present grand total of both men and women in the services therefore exceeds 762,000.

It is often interesting to know how we appear to others. Robert Burns said:

O wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as ithers see us!

So by way of showing how the accomplishments of the Canadian Navy have impressed the editors of a well-known American publication, perhaps I may be permitted to read a few lines from an editorial that appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* of August 21, 1943:

What most Americans don't realize, however, is that there were many desperate months when Canada stood between us and disaster.

Farther along:

The burden of protecting the freighters fell chiefly upon England and Canada. Britain, with a very limited amount of help from the Norwegian, Polish and Fighting French navies, supplied 51 per cent of the escort vessels for the trade convoys; the United States contributed 2 per cent, and little Canada, amazingly, provided 47 per cent.

And a little farther on there is this statement:

Yet the fact remains that we probably would have lost the war if the Canadian Navy hadn't come through in a spectacular and heroic way. I hope all honourable members heard those words, but I should like to read them again. They are at the beginning of a paragraph, the whole of which reads as follows:

Yet the fact remains that we probably would have lost the war if the Canadian Navy hadn't come through in a spectacular and heroic way. It is not surprising that Britain, with her great sea power and resources, should have been able to shoulder 51 per cent of the job. But it is one of the marvels of this war that Canada, an agricultural nation of less than 12,000,000 people, could have contributed 47 per cent of the vast fleet of fighting ships necessary to get the freighters across.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSTON.

The editorial goes on:

How Canada accomplished such a feat is an epic that should be written in large letters. . . .

Once the Canadians had the design for the corvette and knew it was the answer, they set about building it in numbers that would shock the Nazi high command—if it knew. Large shipyards and small ones, even tiny boatyards whose experience had been limited to fishing boats and pleasure craft, responded in a way that made history. And husky young lads from the Prairie Provinces went down to the sea to man them. Canada made do.

Now the vast resources of the United States are being brought to bear on the U-boat problem in a larger way, and the ratio of escort craft provided by Britain, Canada and America may be changing. But Canada is still doing her part, and will continue to do so, we may be sure, until the day of peace. Is it any wonder, then, that the Canadian sailor may be just a trifle offended when his cousin from south of the border inquires with polite condescension: "Tell me, does Canada have a Navy."

Well, Canada has a Navy, and it has done remarkable work for Canada and her Allies.

Now I will deal with our war effort generally. The legal fraternity always seek to prove a case by calling impartial witnesses. I shall follow a similar course and present to you the testimony of certain world-renowned persons who know the magnitude of Canada's war effort. First I would quote Prime Minister Churchill. On August 31, 1943, he used these words:

I have also had the advantage of conferring with the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Mackenzie King, the experienced statesman who led the Dominion instantly and unitedly into the war. . . . The contribution which Canada has made to the combined effort of the British Commonwealth and Empire in these tremendous times has deeply touched the heart of the Mother Country and of all the other members of the family.

Next I cite Right Hon. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour in the British Cabinet. In a speech which he delivered on October 26, 1942, I find this passage:

I do not think there ever has been a time in history when the productive man-power of two countries has been dove-tailed as closely as those of Canada and Britain are now. . . . The weight and resiliency of Canada's output in the last two years—particularly during 1940, when we had not many friends—were a salvation to us.

On February 16, 1942, President Roosevelt expressed his appreciation of our war effort in the following terms:

The part that Canada is playing in the fight for the liberty of man is worthy of your traditions and ours. We, your neighbour, have been profoundly impressed by reports that have come to us setting forth the magnitude and nature of your effort as well as the valiant spirit which supports it.