

CANADA'S NAVY ASKS OLD LAND FOR EXPERT AID

Number of Technicians to Build Destroyers Being Requested

FACTS REVIEWED

London, Aug. 11.—(CP Cable)—Navy Minister Angus MacDonald is seeking the release of a number of British technicians to aid the Canadian destroyer building program.

The visiting Canadian minister told a press conference to-day that "we propose building destroyers in Canada, but will need some assistance from this country in the matter of skilled supervisors."

London, Aug. 11.—(UP)—Canadian Naval Minister Angus MacDonald said to-day that Canada is building two corvettes weekly and that 100 Canadian merchantmen are expected to be sailing the high seas by the end of 1942.

He said he had explored the problem of obtaining them in correspondence with the admiralty and now plans conversations. He has already met A. V. Alexander, first lord of the admiralty, for a general talk but has not broached the question of technicians.

He gave the British reporters these naval facts:

The Canadian navy has increased from 1,774 officers and men and 13 ships at the outbreak of war to 22,000 men and 250 ships. Personnel includes 500 officers serving with the the Royal navy and 25 surgeons and 60 scientific experts working in Britain.

Canada's merchant shipbuilding program should result in 100 ships

—about 1,000,000 tons—taking the water in 1942.

Corvette construction is averaging about eight monthly and "we have reached the point where we will have enough very shortly."

A naval college will be opened in the autumn of 1942 on a site not yet announced. The government will see that poor boys get the same chance as the rich to train to be officers, he said.

The convoy which escorted the Canadian Third Division had an equal number of Canadian and British destroyers when it left Canada.

Naval co-operation with Britain extends across the Atlantic, in addition to naval units in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Questioned about Canadian naval action in the event of a flare-up in the Pacific, Mr. MacDonald said it is the navy's duty to defend Canada "wherever that duty may take it." If there is trouble in the Pacific, he added, "we will dispose our navy to the best advantage."

The minister later left his hotel for the admiralty. He said he hopes to "see more of the admiralty people to-day and during the week."

Appreciate Canada's Part

From The Spectator's London News Bureau, by A. C. Cummings.
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The people and press of the United Kingdom show a new appreciation of Canada's naval war effort as the outcome of Hon. Angus L. MacDonald's present visit to London. The minister of naval defence, who is consulting First Lord of the Admiralty Alexander and the first sea lord about destroyer and other naval production in the Dominion and especially about obtaining technically trained men from this side of the Atlantic, has disclosed that in the Battle of the Atlantic the Dominion, in the form of new ships constructed in Canadian yards will reach one million tons next year, or about one-sixth of allied shipping losses in the war so far. This big program, United Kingdom newspaper readers are surprised to learn, will be only the beginning. Even a bigger output of merchantmen will be undertaken if the war lasts beyond the end of next year.

Canada's aid in the shape of corvettes, which can be built in seven months, is also felt here to be remarkable and the extent of her participation in convoy work, patrol of the Atlantic and the Pacific, the number of officers serving with the Royal Navy and the activities of the joint defence board, which provides for co-operation with the United States, also evokes praise. Mr. MacDonald, who came by bomber across the Atlantic, is the eighth cabinet minister to visit London since the war started.

"All officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy," he says, "have great admiration for the Royal Navy, in which so many senior officers have been trained."

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
SHIPPING
SHIPBUILDING