

"TOTAL EFFORT" WILL ALONE ENSURE OUR FREEDOM

Air Supremacy Can Win the War for the Allies—Of First Importance Is the Commonwealth Air Training Scheme.

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Time, like Providence, helps those who help themselves. Time is not the unconditional friend of the Allies; it favors the more efficient, but may change sides.

When Britain's Prime Minister first tried to reason with Hitler at Munich the military power of the British Empire was symbolically no stronger than the frailness of Mr. Chamberlain's umbrella. The penalty of procrastination might then have resulted in the ignominious defeat of our comparatively unarmed Empire and the entire European Continent might have become the slaughterhouse of brute Hun. The fact that Hitler stayed his hand which held the air-weapon of victory was sure proof of his belief that the Reich could spread its grasping tentacles to the far corners of Europe without major conflict with Great Britain, whose unpreparedness he well knew. As Mr. Chamberlain remarked, "Hitler has missed the bus." He may make sure of catching the next one.

Since Munich the cause of the Allies has been favored by Time, but the invaluable opportunities to repair our deficiencies have not been fully taken advantage of. In the intervening period progress has been made, but the British Government is only just rising to the conception of "total war." Canada has failed as yet to gain this appreciation.

The totalitarian organization of the man-power and industry of Germany, which has been productive of a war machine more powerful than ever before dreamed of, can only be defeated by the greater collective total effort of all free Britishers.

Let us peer into our own Canadian mirror reflecting the past eight months and seek out the things left undone. We started off hopelessly unprepared through false economy in military expenditures, because the Government had failed to make plain our responsibilities. We utterly failed upon the declaration of war, as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, to straightway make it crystal clear that every Canadian was a voluntarily totalitarian contributor to the crusade against the Nazi system of persecution which has degraded the white race to the level of the lowest marauders known to history. We did not declare to the world in unmistakable terms that the entire natural and industrial resources of our Dominion would be used to stop for ever the aggressive plundering of the weaker nations by the German sabre-rattlers.

The unequivocal declaration of Canada's total support of Great Britain has never been emphatically stated, but instead we are told that Canada is in close touch with the British Government, whose requests are being attended to. The Canadian Government has not sufficiently impressed upon us that if we fail to suppress the German race our people will be fettered to the Nazi yoke. If this is the blurred impression that our Government has left with its own people, with what contempt must the rest of the world regard our seemingly half-hearted participation in the conflict for freedom.

Mass heroics were neither desired by the people of Canada nor required to stimulate their interest in what, through common-sense reasoning applied to world politics of the past twenty years, they instinctively knew to be the Christian cause of right—our cause. It is the duty of any Government to steady the ranks of its people, not to discourage loyal citizens who seek to rally in defense of the realm. In September last the bugle call to all Britishers was sounded, not primarily as a rally to any cause, but as a general assembly to defend our heritage in whatever capacity best suited each individual. The response was both immediate and general. Our country as a whole was anxious to do its bit, but lack of opportunity has sadly dampened the patriotic Canadian spirit at first made manifest. Thousands of men who volunteered for service have grown sadly complacent through refusal. The industrial resources of the country are not being used to the fullest extent. Every man and every machine should have its allotted task of war work.

Government under war circumstances is a stupendous job and the responsibilities borne by a few are almost overwhelming. The two great assets of any belligerent nation are men and materials, both of which are valueless until organized by the Government to pursue the nation's war aims. Our Government has made a serious effort, but a

"moderate contribution" will not suffice. The people of Canada demand more.

What, so far, is Canada's military contribution? One division is in England in training, a second division is about to go into summer camp in Canada for training. A few specialty troops are accommodating their civilian trade knowledge to war purposes. Is this the best contribution of men-in-arms that the senior Dominion can make? The answer is definitely "No." Great Britain may not be asking for troops at the moment, but not an able-bodied man in Canada, nor a woman who can replace a would-be fighting soldier, should be out of employment or uselessly occupied. No fewer than one hundred thousand should perpetually be in training.

In the Great War Canadian troops ranked among the finest fighting material of Britain's army. Our youth of today is anxious to carry on the tradition of their fathers, and, under proved leaders like Generals McNaughton and Odium, we may feel confident that they will. The enthusiasm of those who have been denied admittance to any of the services will be smothered unless steps are quickly taken to rekindle it. The irreplaceable experience of every able-bodied ex-soldier of the Great War who has been toughened in the school of active service should be utilized to the utmost. Youth is a great asset to a fighting soldier, but battle experience is greater.

The regimental spirit of many of our non-permanent militia units is fast dwindling because of non-inclusion in the Canadian Active Service Force.

Of first importance is the Commonwealth Air Training Scheme! But where is it? Is it still hatching in the brains of its conceivers? Thousands of airmen cannot be trained without the fact being known to the populace at large. Ask the man in the street from east to west what he has seen of this embryo Air-Armada, and the best he can tell you is that things are a little more active at so-and-so air training centre. The day will surely come when hundreds of machines will be lost in a day. Replacements must be immediately at hand. Doubtless this great scheme is under way, for we are told that \$600,000,000 will be spent by 1943, but could not training and production be efficiently stepped up now? The senior officers of the R.C.A.F. possess vast experience in air warfare; they know their jobs; when given a free rein and they are backed to the utmost by civil authority, Canada will produce the finest air force in the world.

That great patriot and journalist, Mr. J. L. Garvin, of the Observer, of England, recently wrote: "The Allied armies cannot begin to pass from defense to ascendancy until Britain and France possess the full mastery of the air on the Western Front, as elsewhere." This responsibility largely rests with Canada as the foster mother of the Empire Air Scheme. Native Canadians are natural fliers and thousands of young men of our Dominion are begging a chance to follow the heroic example of Bishop and Barker and many others less well known who contributed so magnificently in aerial combat in the Great War and brought unequalled fame to Canada.

Some of us remember how in France, in 1914, messages were dropped to troop commanders from slow-flying, wobbly planes whose maximum speed was sixty miles an hour, and how motorcycle despatch riders emulated thoroughbred hunters in their cross-country collection of these treasured missiles of information of the enemy's whereabouts and doings. Within four years of such an elementary method of communication between land and air the Royal Air Force had become the eyes of the Army-in-the-Field and the unchallenged masters of the air. The struggle for air supremacy was then on an equal basis with the enemy, but today we have to start from far behind. "The way out is the way over," and nothing less than "total effort" to gain "air supremacy" can win this war for the Allies. We must remember that Poland was blotted out from the air in short time, and that control of the air has given Germany Southern Norway.

The Royal Canadian Navy is rendering traditional service with the limited equipment at its disposal, but more men must be trained and more ships must be built. The Empire's life-line is the sea. The Atlantic crossing might feasibly become the sole responsibility of Canada's fighting ships. Naval training

centres are working at high pressure, but numbers of embryo sea-dogs are clamoring to join the senior service only to be told that there is no room for them—as yet.

Defense Minister Rogers will have gained invaluable knowledge during his recent visit to Great Britain and France. He has already declared himself as deeply impressed by the thorough and realistic preparations which have been made by the Allies. It is the definite responsibility of Mr. Rogers, upon his return, to make a complete and detailed documentary report to the Cabinet in particular, and the House of Commons in general. In the light of information contained in this report the House, through the Premier, should make a plain statement of Canada's war aims and purposes to the people of our country and to the world at large.

Thousands of Canadian volunteers await the Defense Minister's slightest beckoning. "Action" must become the password of the Department of National Defense; the dead-wood must be cut out of the tree.

The conduct of modern warfare is no longer the exclusive responsibility of the professional soldier. Canada has reason to be proud of many of the personnel of its permanent militia, but any barriers which may obstruct the meritorious preferment of the civilian soldier should be ruthlessly removed by the Minister of Defense.

Tardiness in setting up a Department of Munitions and Supply under a minister finds us, at the end of eight months, with a department under splendid leadership, but imperfectly organized and not wholly possessed of public confidence. A few of Canada's proved executives have been hewing a pathway to accomplishment through a jungle of departmental incompetency. No ground has been shown for believing that contracts can be obtained from the department by favor. Any person claiming to have profitable "influence" with any Government department should be jailed. Supply Minister Howe is the right man in the right place; he has efficient aides; but no subordinate who inspires doubts should be retained. Industrial Canada is wholly behind Minister Howe, but demands his assurance of an aggressive program. The practical value of potential and industrial resources, however great, depends on the vigor and grip with which they are developed and applied. The wheels of industry must be turned faster. Personal and corporate profit must be sacrificed for the good of the State.

And how, we may well ask ourselves, are we to pay for this "total effort"? The answer is bewildering in its clarity. It must be either paid for with our worldly goods or with our lives and our liberty. Taxes and more taxes; sacrifice of luxuries; limitation of enjoyments; these are the burdens that must be borne by all Canadians. Finance Minister Ralston will doubtless lead the way; we must follow willingly. If the people of Great Britain can take it, surely we can!

Canada's recent general election has given Mr. Mackenzie King a staggering majority, with a power to lead and govern which few democratic statesmen have enjoyed. What weighed down the scale so heavily was a national determination not only to refrain from changing horses while crossing the stream, but to make sure the stream was crossed, and with this purpose in mind, to accentuate and accelerate war preparations to the very utmost. The election evidenced that Canada believes in Mr. King and through him, as Premier, reaffirms the rightfulness of this conflict for the freedom of nations and for a moral order in the world. The resolve declared the steadfast and unalterable will of Canada—a Sovereign State within a democratic Empire—to wage the fight for right, shoulder to shoulder with Britain—to the end.

This is not the time for fireside chats, nor half-measures. Plain speaking by the Premier of Canada is required to rally this Dominion to the full sense of its responsibilities and a comprehensive understanding of the stupendous nature of the conflict in which we are engaged. The Government must lead the way. Baseless suspicions and rumors are born of lack of information.

Canada has been dilatory in mobilizing and gearing for war. The Canadian people have a right to know what the Government has been doing and what its program is. "Total effort" will alone ensure our freedom.

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