

DEATH OF DEFENCE MINISTER MAKES REORGANIZATION PLAN PRESSING NEED OF DOMINION

Air Minister Shoulders Heavy War Duties For Time Being

THREE POSTS OPEN

Ottawa, June 11.—(CP)—
The death of Hon. Norman
Rogers, Canada's 46-year-old
minister of national defence,
left Prime Minister Mackenzie
King to-day with an acute
cabinet reorganization prob-
lem. Grief-stricken at the
personal loss of an intimate
friend, the Prime Minister
was faced with the immediate
business of reconstructing his
cabinet.

Must Reduce Pressure

Three portfolios now are to be
filled if pressure is to be reduced
on those carrying these exacting
burdens.

Air Minister
C. G. Power has
been named act-
ing minister of
national defence
and it is believ-
ed likely that
some new blood
will be brought
into the govern-
ment, possibly
from outside the
house of com-
mons.

At present
Mr. Power, who
is postmaster-
general, also
holds the new
Hon. C. G. Power
portfolio of air in addition to
his acting position as national de-
fence head. Hon. C. D. Howe,
transport minister since 1935, also
has been minister of munitions and
supply since that department came
into being some months ago.

No announcement is expected
at least until the end of the week,
but Mr. Power's efforts when he
acted for Mr. Rogers during the
latter's various absences on busi-
ness, showed him well qualified to
act as a full-time defence minister.



Prepare For Funeral

Meanwhile, plans were being ad-
vanced by the government for Mr.
Rogers' funeral to-morrow after-
noon. The body is being brought
to-day to his residence in suburban
Rockliffe from Port Hope, where
the crash occurred which killed the
minister and three Air Force men.

The public church service to-mor-
row will be preceded by a private
service for the family at the
Rogers residence. The family re-
quested no flowers be sent.

The great shock universally felt
throughout this country by the
sudden death of the popular de-
fence minister was indicated with
the greatest eloquence in the de-
meanour of his colleagues and
other members of parliament yes-
terday as word of the tragedy was
officially confirmed.

Coming on top of Italy's entry
into the war, news of Mr. Rogers'
death passed almost in a whisper
from member to incredulous mem-
ber as the house of commons met.

Announces Friend's Death

There was no flicker of a smile.
Talk was limited and then only in
subdued tones.

The largely-filled spectators' gal-
leries were equally affected when
Mr. King arose to announce the
death of his friend and colleague.

The chamber heard the Prime
Minister relate in low and some-
times wavering voice how Mr.
Rogers had consulted with him
Sunday night about the desirability
of keeping a speaking engagement
in Toronto Monday noon when
there was the possibility of Italy
immediately entering the war. Mr.
Rogers had asked him about can-
celling that engagement in the
light of developments.

"I replied," Mr. King continued
courageously, "that I considered it
important that all of us should
realize the seriousness of the situ-
ation at the moment, but that I
was afraid that if he were to can-
cel his trip to Toronto at this time,
some occasion of undue alarm
might arise from the fact that the
minister of national defence had
not been able to carry out an en-
gagement which he had made."

Faithful Public Servant

While he had known many honour-
able characters in his life, the Prime
Minister said he had "never known
a more faithful public servant, a
better administrator of public af-
fairs.

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"I have never known a more dis-
interested public servant nor have I
ever known a more beautiful nature
or nobler soul than that of Norman
Rogers," he said.

Out of respect for the memory
of their colleague and associate,
members of the commons adjourned
until Monday, but not before deal-
ing with the new war development
created by Italy's entry.

Death of Mr. Rogers was a par-
ticularly sad blow to the Prime
Minister. Mr. Rogers was his sec-
retary in a previous administration,
his biographer and close friend.

Last September, when in the face
of growing war problems Mr. King
reorganized his cabinet, he took Mr.
Rogers from the labour ministry
and named him head of the defence
department.

A private soldier in the last war
Mr. Rogers bore promise of dis-
tinguishing himself as supreme
head of the defence department
during the present struggle.

992-868-824