

CANADA'S WAR EFFORT

SUMMARY

This week in the Canadian Parliament was one of the most historic in its record. The principal decisions made both in Parliament and in the departments of Government can be summarised as:

1. An act empowering the Government to mobilize all the effective resources of the nation, both human and material, for the purpose of defence and security of Canada passed both Houses of Parliament.

2. Notification given to Parliament of the intention of the Government to establish without delay a Department of National War Services to co-ordinate existing voluntary war services and to direct and mobilize others.

3. House of Commons agreed to the setting-up of a select committee to consider the Defence of Canada Regulations and to prescribe penalties for infractions.

4. Acting Defence Minister Hon. C. G. Power informed Parliament of the intention to enlist 70,000 more men, above the present existing strength of the active service forces for service at home and abroad.

5. Canada heard through the Prime Minister that Canadian troops are now in Iceland and in Newfoundland for the purposes of the defence of those islands.

6. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply, announced that construction already had been commenced on two munitions projects announced last week.

7. Anti-tank and anti-aircraft shell production, it is announced by the Department of Munitions and Supply, has been increased by more than 30 per cent. Bren guns are now

coming off the assembly line on a mass production basis.

8. Registration of all man power is to proceed immediately.

9. Canada agreed to accept and to establish camps for aliens now in detention in Great Britain, and for prisoners of war also held there.

10. School children of Great Britain presently to the number of 10,000 to be received in Canada for the duration of the war.

11. Ten principles promulgated by Order in Council to prevent interruption of production or distributive work by strikes or lockouts during the war.

12. Alien appeal tribunal abolished and authority to release those in detention vested in Minister of Justice alone.

13. Nineteen infantry reserve companies for the Veterans' Home Guard to be organised.

DETAIL

COMPLETE MOBILIZATION: Bill 43, which will rank with the most important measures in Canada's history, empowers the Government to mobilize "All the effective resources of the nation, both human and material, for the defence and security of Canada". A short Act of but six clauses and a preamble, it was passed by both Houses of Parliament on June 20th. Entitled "The National Resources Mobilization Act, 1940", its main provision is to enable the Government to "Do and authorize such acts and things, and make from time to time such orders and regulations, requiring persons to place themselves, their services and their property at the disposal" of Canada.

Clause three of the Act contains a limitation of conscription for ser-

vice in the active forces to Canada only and the territorial waters thereof, while the time limit of operation is definitely set as "The continuation of the state of war now existing". The Prime Minister, in presenting the Bill, explained that these additional powers were necessary both for the purpose of assistance to Britain and for the defence of Canada. The bill is intended "To remove any doubt as to the power of the Government, and the will of Parliament that the whole material resources of the country shall be available whenever they are required to meet the needs of the war." Service in the overseas forces, the Prime Minister declared, would remain on the present voluntary basis of recruitment.

NEW DEPARTMENT: Department of National War Services is a new branch of the Government to be set up at once, the Prime Minister has announced. A Minister will be placed in charge. The purpose of the new department is not merely to coordinate the activities of existing voluntary war services. It will be entrusted with the duty of directing and mobilizing the activities of thousands of citizens who are seeking practical and useful outlets for their enthusiasm and patriotism. Women's organizations, patriotic organizations, commercial organizations, and many other groups of men and women banded together in the national interest are considered a vast field of activity for spontaneous service. The object of the new department is to help Canadians to help Canada by their free-will offerings generously made and generously continued. The Minister charged with the duties of this department will be expected immediately to establish a dominion-wide organization of voluntary service, which will be assisted by branch committees in all parts of the country.

LABOUR: By Order in Council, a set of ten principles has been outlined to avert labour troubles during the period of the war. These demand fair and reasonable standards of wages with bonuses where they should apply. Other points are: safeguards for protection of health and safety of the workers; no strikes or lockouts, but the settlements of differences by reference to the Government conciliation services or the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act; freedom of union organization; freedom of negotiation with employers by representatives of such unions; scrupulous observance of all agreements; no coercion or intimidation by workers to induce others to join unions; suspension of existing agreements necessitated by war demands, to be made only by agreement between the parties concerned. The Order also suggests that where hours of work must be extended, additional shifts be established rather than the employment of workers for long hours of overtime.

To have the last word with a woman—apologise.

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