

CANADA AND THE WAR

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TOTAL WAR AND TOTAL  
EFFORT

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*An Appeal for War Savings*

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BROADCAST BY

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.

*Prime Minister of Canada*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1941

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Minister of National War Services*



OTTAWA  
EDMOND CLOUTIER  
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1941

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Sunday, February 2, 1941

I wish to make an appeal to every Canadian. It is an appeal to rally all our strength, to save Christian civilization from disaster.

There are many indications that, within a very short while, the enemy will make a tremendous effort to destroy the British Commonwealth by a series of smashing blows of unprecedented severity. Total war will be waged in all its fury. Hitler has made his purpose clear. It will be a desperate race against the growing power and strength of the British Commonwealth, a strength augmented by steadily increasing supplies from the United States.

### *Total War and How to Meet It*

We have heard a great deal about total war. Total war means an indiscriminate attack on every front, by every means, however fiendish. It is war on sea, on land, and in the air, against armed forces and forts, warships and merchant ships. Practised by the Nazis, as we have seen, it is war against homes, hospitals, schools and churches. It is war on men, women and children. It is war by shot, shell, fire and poison gas. Its aim and purpose are total destruction. This is the war with which Britain is face to face. We would soon know all its horrors if the enemy could reach us. Between this continent and that attack, Britain stands as the first line of defence.

There is only one way to meet total war, and that is by total effort—effort not for a day, or a week, or a month, but every day until victory is won.

Total effort means that every man, woman and child does and keeps on doing everything possible to help.

Total effort can be achieved in two ways. It can be compelled by dictatorial force—that is the enemy's way. It can be obtained by the free-will offering of a free people—that is our way, and the way we must strive to preserve. We are a free people, and every day since the war began, there has been proof of the growing willingness of our people to spare no effort or sacrifice, that the needs of the war demand.

### *A Time for Sacrifice*

When I spoke to you on New Year's Eve, I told you that the year 1941 would require more effort, more sacrifice, and far more change in our daily lives than we had known or made in 1940. No task, I said, is too humble, no labour too insignificant, no individual too poor or too weak to make a contribution to the winning of the war.

Our contributions are being made in many ways. Tens of thousands of our young men are in the army, the navy, and the air force. Hundreds of thousands of men and women are working in factories, on farms, in mines and forests and by the sea. Many more thousands are deeply stirred with a passionate desire to help. Not everyone can fight in the front line, or make war supplies. But almost everyone can help to provide the money which is necessary to feed, equip and transport the fighting forces, and to make the weapons and munitions of war. Now that the skies are full of sure signs of a gathering storm, the government of your country appeals to you to lend what assistance you can, as quickly as you can.

### *Savings Required to Win the War*

Some time ago, the government decided that, in the month of February, there should be an intensive campaign to bring our war savings up to the steadily growing needs of the war. The campaign opened yesterday. To-night, in making this appeal, I have told you why war savings are needed. I intend to say something further of how they are to be used by the government. To-morrow, the Minister of Finance will speak to you from Windsor. In his speech, Mr.



Ilsley will explain how important to the financing of the war, is the individual effort each one of you is being asked to make now, and to keep on making, regularly, until the war is won.

The government asks you to save carefully and to lend freely; to set aside, regularly, some portion of your income or your wages.

Every dollar which is lent to Canada will be a bond between him who lends his money to his country and those who fight for him in the front line of battle.

Without the sinews of war neither defence nor victory will be possible, suffering and sacrifice will be in vain.

By lending freely, you will be helping to save human lives; you will yourself become a defender of freedom.

#### *The Programme for 1941*

During the past week, the government has been considering the reports of the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Munitions and Supply on their visits to Britain and their discussions with the United Kingdom authorities. As you already know, the purpose of Mr. Ralston's and Mr. Howe's visits was to emphasize, and to translate into the most effective action, the determination of the Canadian people to put forth their utmost strength in the cause of freedom. It was also to gain at first hand further information as to how Canada's resources might best be used to achieve our maximum effort.

On the programme for 1941 which has been worked out by the War Committee of the Cabinet, there is, I am pleased to say complete agreement between the British and Canadian governments. This programme involves a number of new measures. It represents a co-ordinated effort based upon Canada's utmost productive capacity.

The new measures are being so timed as to fit into the programme of the Admiralty, the War Office, the Air Ministry, and the Supply departments of the United Kingdom.

#### *The Royal Canadian Navy*

The expansion of the Royal Canadian Navy will continue at a rapid rate. The Navy had a strength, at the beginning of the war, of 15 ships and 1,774 men on active service. To-day, the strength of the Navy is 175 ships and 15,319 men of all ranks. The present plan will bring the Navy up to an estimated strength by March 31, 1942, of 413 ships and 26,920 men.

Canadian ships are at present serving in the Atlantic and the Pacific, both North and South, in the Caribbean, and in European waters. Canadian sailors, in the Canadian Navy, or attached to the Royal Navy, are on duty on all of the Seven Seas.

#### *The Army*

The plan for our active Army for 1941 includes the despatch overseas, successively, of the following formations:

(1) the balance of the Corps Troops for the Canadian Corps of two divisions now in England;

(2) an Army Tank Brigade for employment with the Canadian Corps. This will enable Canada to be represented in the United Kingdom by a Canadian armoured formation which will be attached to and operate with the Canadian Corps, thus providing increased striking power;

(3) the Third Canadian Division, with its complement of Corps Troops;

(4) a Canadian Armoured Division.

All these Army projects have been approved by our National Defence staff, by Lieutenant-General McNaughton, and by the staff of the British War Office. There is complete agreement on the timing and extent of the measures which it is proposed to take.

#### *The Air Force*

Throughout 1941 we shall continue the vigorous and energetic development of the Air Training Plan. All the projects and schools connected with the Plan will be opened, and in operation, before September of this year. This represents a clear gain of eight months on the original schedule. The aerodrome construction this year will be equal in extent to that of last year. Through the recruiting of airmen and air crew, the present strength of 36,000 men will be doubled. The present number of 1,700 aeroplanes now in use in the Training Plan will be increased to well over 4,000 before the end of the year.

In Canada, our air defence will be strengthened by an increase in the number of operational squadrons attached to the Home War Establishment.

Overseas, the three Canadian squadrons, fully equipped, manned and maintained by Canada, will

be kept up to strength. There will, in addition, be constituted out of the graduate pupils of the Joint Air Training Plan, and identified as Canadian, twenty-five new squadrons. Under the terms of the Air Training Plan Agreement, as you may recall, these squadrons are to be equipped and maintained by the United Kingdom. In addition to the men who will form these squadrons, many thousand more young Canadians, who are graduates of the Plan, will go forward to Britain to take their place in the battle line of the air, alongside their comrades from Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

#### *War Production and Supplies*

A vast increase in production in war equipment and supplies has been arranged. As the United States is prepared to manufacture for Britain only such munitions as are in common use for United States' war purposes, Canadian armament production during 1941 will be concentrated on types of war equipment and weapons which are not obtainable in the United States, such as: Mark-3 Tanks, small arms, Bren guns, aircraft machine-guns and anti-tank guns. Canada will also specialize on the production of ammunition for these weapons, and on the manufacture of explosives.

The production of a wide range of naval guns and 25-pounder field guns will be enlarged. Canada is the only source of supply outside Britain for these guns. Canada will also produce anti-tank guns for infantry use, and heavy anti-aircraft guns for defence purposes.



Canada is now the only source of supply outside Britain for motor transport vehicles. You will, I am sure, be pleased to know that practically all of the motor vehicles in use in the African campaign have been and still are of Canadian manufacture. Canadian workmen may well take pride in their share in the victories of Libya.

Canada's shipbuilding industry has already constructed many small naval vessels. A number of these are operating in European waters. We are also building merchant ships in increasing numbers. We propose to undertake the building of destroyers in Canadian shipyards.

Our aircraft industry will concentrate on building in Canada enough aeroplanes for the Air Training Plan. At Britain's request, our surplus capacity will be used for the manufacture of long-range bombers which can be flown across the Atlantic.

### *Training of Additional Man Power*

It will be apparent that the needs of the armed forces and of war industry will make large demands upon available Canadian manpower. It is estimated that, for the purposes mentioned, 200,000 additional men and women will be required during the present year. Of this number at least 75,000 must be skilled or semi-skilled workers. The federal government, in co-operation with the provincial governments, is establishing vocational and plant training schools capable of training 100,000 persons a year.

To do all these new things, and to continue the work already in hand, will tax Canada's productive capacity to the limit. It will necessitate more of a

shift from peace-time to war-time production, and a cutting down of luxury production, and of luxury buying. It will mean more in the way of united determination, effort and sacrifice than has ever before been asked of the Canadian people. We have also to keep in mind the financial assistance which Canada is undertaking in financing purchases of the United Kingdom in this country.

### *War Effort Dependent on Individual Effort*

Every saving you lend to Canada will help to make possible the attainment of the war effort I have outlined. Your savings, standing alone, may seem small and insignificant. But taken together, the savings of all the citizens of Canada, may well weight the scales on the side of victory.

In the midst of the dark days of the last war, the then Prime Minister of Great Britain, in appealing to his countrymen, related to them an old Celtic legend. It seems to me in his appeal, and in the simple tale which it relates, there lies a lesson for us all.

"There is a story", said he, "of a man who was given a series of what appeared to be impossible tasks to perform, ere he could reach the desires of his heart. Amongst other things he had to do, was to recover every grain of seed, that had been sown in a large field, and bring it all in, without one missing, by sunset. He came to an ant-hill, and won all hearts, and enlisted the sympathies of the industrious little people. They spread over the field, and, before sundown, the seed was all in except one grain; and, as the sun was setting over the western skies, a lame ant hobbled along with that grain also. Some of us

have youth, and vigour, and suppleness of limb; some of us are crippled with years or infirmities, and we are, at best, but lame ants. But we can all limp along with some share of our country's burden, and thus help her in this terrible hour, to win the desire of her heart."

### *Freedom's Crowning Hour*

As, in Canada, we each seek to serve as best we can, let us not be misled into believing that because we have not been assigned some special role, our contribution in effort or in saving may be too slight to be of value to so great a cause. It is for each one to seek out for himself, in the circumstances in which he finds himself, how he can best play his part. Example sufficiently inspiring will surely be found in the lives of the men and women of Britain. Neither let us be dismayed at the magnitude of the task, nor discouraged by the length of the road. Across the centuries, there come to us, as there came to the defenders of the faith in ancient days, words which have sustained the human heart in all its struggles: "Let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not".

"Ye, that have faith to look with fearless eyes  
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,  
And know that out of death and night shall rise  
The dawn of ampler life,  
Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your heart,  
That God has given you the priceless dower  
To live in these great times and bear your part  
In Freedom's crowning hour;  
That ye may tell your sons who see the light  
High in the heavens—their heritage to take;  
I saw the powers of darkness put to flight,  
I saw the morning break."