

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 problem. 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 acting minister of national defence and it is believed likely that some new blood will be brought into the government, possibly from outside the house of commons.

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 defence 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 business, showed him well qualified to act as a full-time defence minister.



Prepare For Funeral

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

The public church service to-morrow will be preceded by a private service for the family at the Rogers residence. The family requested no flowers be sent.

The great shock universally felt throughout this country by the sudden death of the popular defence minister was indicated with the greatest eloquence in the demeanour of his colleagues and other members of parliament yesterday 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 member 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' galleries 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 sometimes 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 cancelling 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 situation at the moment, but that I was afraid that if he were to cancel 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 engagement which he had made."

Faithful Public Servant

While he had known many honourable characters in his life, the Prime Minister said he had "never known a more faithful public servant, a better administrator of public affairs."

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"I have never known a more disinterested 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 dealing with the new war development created by Italy's entry.

Death of Mr. Rogers was a particularly sad blow to the Prime Minister. Mr. Rogers was his secretary 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 distinguishing himself as supreme head of the defence department during the present struggle.

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