

DEC 18 1939

# Canada to Provide Bulk of Personnel, Premier Announces

**Dominion Will Pay About \$350,000,000 of \$600,000,000 Cost**  
**USE 67 SCHOOLS**

(A partial text of Prime Minister Mackenzie King's broadcast address is on Page 8.)

(By R. A. FARQUHARSON.)

(Staff Writer, The Globe and Mail.)

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Prime Minister Mackenzie King tonight announced the details of the Empire air training scheme which is expected to become Canada's major contribution to the war.

The agreement, signed shortly before one o'clock this morning, is called the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, but Canada will be the main contributor both in men and money.

Of the total cost of \$600,000,000 Canada will provide about \$350,000,000 over the three years of the agreement, which runs until March 31, 1943, but may be extended or terminated by mutual agreement.

### Aim to be Overwhelming.

Mr. King's announcement, made over a national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, outlined the highlights of what Great Britain has already described as "the most effective assistance toward ultimate victory" Canada can render. Further details will be announced tomorrow. When the scheme is in operation it will provide an Empire air force "whose co-ordinated strength will be overwhelming."

Full speed ahead has already been ordered in the move to establish Canada as "one of the greatest air training centres in the world." With the money already being spent on other services, Canada's war contribution for the first year is costing a million dollars a day.

Mr. King explained that the Government has not waited for the agreement to be signed to get started on the initial work. Engineers of the Provincial Departments of Highways have already surveyed the sixty new flying fields to be estab-

lished across Canada. Work has started enlarging twenty of the existing fields. Sixty-seven schools of all types for pilots, observers, gunners and wireless crews, instructors, ground and maintenance crews will be established.

### Set Up Instructor Schools.

The Prime Minister did not say when recruiting would be flung wide open to raise the thousands of men needed in Canada. As a preliminary to this, Camp Borden and Trenton have been converted into schools for instructors to handle the rush of new recruits when everything is in readiness.

While the air-training plans have been modified in some details since the British Mission under Lord Riverdale reached Canada, it is still of such magnitude as to tax Canada's resources to the uttermost, and in its present form has received the unanimous agreement of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Newfoundland will also contribute men for training.

Britain will supply the bulk of the aircraft, engines and spares as her share of the cost. Australia and New Zealand will pay in proportion to the number of pupils sent to Canada. Excluding the cost of the aircraft, Canada will bear the cost of the initial and elementary training in Canada and about four-fifths of the remaining cost of the program.

### Estimates Subject to Change.

The scheme will swing steadily into operation, but up until next September the cost will be about \$90,000,000, of which Canada will pay \$48,000,000. Mr. King warned that any estimates of cost were subject to a wide margin of error.

Training of aviators is being speeded up as rapidly as is possible with safety. Under the plans it will take twenty-six weeks to turn out

a pilot; twenty-two weeks for an observer and twenty weeks for an air gunner and wireless operator.

In addition to the military side, the go-ahead signal given during the weekend means much work for the Canadian construction industry and for scores of other Canadian industries. The War Supply Board is now ready to issue orders. Protective orders have already been given for supplies required from outside Canada.

### Replies to Criticism.

Mr. King replied to the charges made by Conservative Leader Manion that the Dominion had delayed the scheme. The real beginning of the present plan for joint training in Canada arose from negotiations, launched with Great Britain before

war was declared, he said. The Hon J. V. Fairbairn, then Minister principles upon which the scheme of Civil Aviation, and now Minister was based had been settled last summer, he stated.

On Nov. 3 the New Zealand Mission arrived headed by Group Captain H. W. L. Saunders, Chief of the New Zealand Air Staff.

Considering the intricacies of the negotiations on behalf of Canada speed. Canada was more than ready to go ahead, he said.

The Cabinet composed of Mr. Mackenzie King, Defense Minister Rogers, Finance Minister Ralston, Pensions Minister Mackenzie (for-ordinated program. The training in Canada will be under the direction of officers of the Royal Canadian Air Force, but the other Empire countries will be represented on the supervisory board. The Canadian Government is to administer the scheme.

On Nov. 27 announcement was made that basis for agreement had been reached for submission to the time Government is to administer the scheme. Mr. Mackenzie King said, "has been devoted to an elaboration and precise definition of details of the recruiting in this Dominion and nearly four-fifths of the personnel to be trained."

In effect the agreement will mean precise definition of details of the recruiting in this Dominion and nearly four-fifths of the personnel to be trained."

### Many Thousands Yearly.

### Announced in London.

This joint program will provide for the training of "many thousands of pilots in Canada each year, about three-fifths as many air observers and a slightly larger number of air gunners than pilots." the Prime Minister said.

Practically all air recruits in the United Kingdom will be trained at home and all Australian and New Zealand recruits will receive initial and elementary flying training at home.

The official statement said the organization thus created would play "a decisive part in the achievement of victory."

The communiqué follows: An agreement which applies to Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as to the United Kingdom, and which provides for the carrying out of an Empire air training scheme, was signed at Ottawa early this morning.

Lord Riverdale, head of the British air training mission, signed the agreement on behalf of the United Kingdom and Newfoundland and elsewhere. The great majority of pupils, however, will be Canadians.

The scheme is an outstanding example of Empire co-operation. Under it a great number of young men will be trained in Canada, Australia and New Zealand as pilots. Observing scheme, exclusive of those in training. Of this staff there will be 2,700 officers, 6,000 civilians and about 30,000 non-commissioned air force personnel.

It will require about 40,000 men to establish and maintain the training scheme, exclusive of those in training. Of this staff there will be 2,700 officers, 6,000 civilians and about 30,000 non-commissioned air force personnel.

There will be an unestimated number of elementary flying schools established, sixteen service flying schools, ten air observer schools, ten bombing and gunnery schools, two navigation schools and four wireless training schools.

A number of young men from the United Kingdom will soon proceed to training schools in Canada. The organization thus created will produce a steadily increasing output of trained airmen, and is destined to play a decisive part in the achievement of victory.

In addition to the provision for the student training there will be schools for instructors and administrative staffs, ground crews and maintenance men—a total for all purposes of sixty-seven.

Many of the forty-two standard Trans-Canada Airlines fields will be used in initial stages of the training scheme and work is going forward on surveys for new fields.

The Air Mission from the United Kingdom, under chairmanship of Lord Riverdale, a well-known English industrialist, came to Canada with a large staff of experts Oct. 15. On Nov. 15 he was joined by a mission from Australia headed by

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