

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1944

### Power Forecasts Demobilization

A forecast of Canadian procedure in releasing her air force from European war duties was provided yesterday by Air Minister Power. Two important principles were enunciated: First, that those who joined first are to be first demobilized. Second, that airmen for the war against Japan will be volunteers from the existing forces. Those who wish to return to civil life will be free to do so, but Mr. Power thinks a sufficient number will voluntarily offer for service against Japan to fill Canada's requirements. They will fight as R.C.A.F. units.

No doubt the two principles which are to govern the air force demobilization will apply to the army, that is: First in, first out; and service against Japan (if necessary) by those who volunteer for it. But there has as yet been no indication of what land forces Canada intends to employ against the Nipponese. Some experts claim that it is only on land that Japan can be defeated; that naval defeats and air bombing will not suffice. There is also the question of troops remaining in Europe for occupational and police duties after the war on that continent is over. As to Canada's part in this there has been no announcement.

At any rate, young Canadians can no longer volunteer for aircrew. Casualties in Europe have been unexpectedly light, there is already a sufficient pool of aircrew trained or in training to supply all likely needs, 4,200 Canadians who have been awaiting admission to training centres will be released to other services, and no more aircrew will be recruited. The 4,200 men can voluntarily transfer to the army or navy. If they do not do so, they will be subject to the call-up for draftee service. If they join the army, they will do so not as "freshmen" but with their air force service as a credit towards army pay of \$1.50 per day obtainable normally after six months' good conduct in the army.

It is opportune at this time, with air recruiting at an end, and the air training plan gradually folding up, to say that Air Minister Power has done a grand job. He is personally popular with all parties at Ottawa, but his success with the air force is an indication that he combines exceptional administrative ability with the likable qualities which have won him so many friends.

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DEMobilIZATION

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