

# Air Cadet League Seen 'Reservoir' for R.C.A.F.

Ottawa, May 31 (CP).—The Air Cadet Movement is "of tremendous importance to our winning the war," Air Minister Power said Saturday night in a speech broadcast over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Heard with Major Power were Right Hon. Harold Balfour, Parliamentary Undersecretary for Air in the British Government, who told of the Air Cadet Movement in the United Kingdom, and Air Marshal W. A. Bishop, honorary president of the Air Cadet League of Canada, who said the finest boys in the country are needed in the cadet units.

The speeches formed part of a campaign now under way to raise funds for and stimulate interest in the Air Cadet League, as a means of providing future recruits for the air force.

Major Power said some 15,000 boys between 15 and 18 years have been organized in 133 cadet squadrons across Canada during the year that the league has been operating. Already about 100 graduates of cadet training units were "making history with the air force here and abroad." The cadet training provided a short cut to actual flying training.

"This is a young man's war," said the Minister. "This is an airman's war. We have to have young men and we have to have them trained, just as quickly as possible. We look to the Air Cadet League as our reservoir. It is living, vital, not showpiece."

Thousands of air cadets will receive a week's camp training with the R.C.A.F. in July and in June instructors and officers of the league will take a special two-week course with the R.C.A.F.

Major Power appealed to business men and service club members — particularly those with flying experience — to co-operate with cadet organizations in their communities, to organize them if they were not

in existence, to serve as officers, and to contribute money.

Captain Balfour said the "Air Training Corps," as the cadet movement is called in Britain, has a strength of 200,000 and one of every five boys between the ages of 15 and 18 is a member of it. It has some 1,500 squadrons all affiliated to regular Royal Air Force units. The boys pay regular visits to air stations, have summer camps and take glider training.

"So good is the A.T.C. training that the air cadet can lop off several weeks of our initial training wing ground course which others have to do in full," said Captain Balfour. "Here indeed is a dividend, not only in terms of money but in terms of time saved and keenness encouraged, which the A.T.C. pays handsomely to the R.A.F."

Air Marshal Bishop said the glamour of aviation appeals to youth today as it did to him when he was at school. Personally, he felt the same thrill in the air today as he did when he first flew.

"To those boys who will join and to their parents," he said, "I say with confidence that in this air cadet movement we offer much more than just the knowledge of aviation.

"It is, and will be increasingly so, an education, a training of the mind, and even if our younger cadets never actually join up they will not have wasted their time."

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