## The Montreal Gazette Feb 24, 1943

## CANADIAN AID TO REDS LISTED 1,200 Tanks, 2,000 Carriers Sent Besides Guns, Munitions

Ottawa, February 23. – House of Commons leaders today joined in tributes to the Soviet Union as the Red Army celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the Canadian contribution to the Russian fight against Germany was described.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King said the whole world was in debt to the Russian forces for what they had done to withstand the German invaders and drive them from thousands of square miles of Soviet territory.

Mr. King repeated a warning Foreign Secretary Eden gave the British people on Sunday when he said German propaganda was attempting to foster suspicion and encourage dissension between the Allies by reviving the bogey of Bolshevism and by representing Hitler as the savior of western civilization.

"We must be on our guard in Canada against deceptions and propaganda of this kind," said Mr. King.

He was sure it was the hope of all Canadians that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Soviet Union was but the prelude to a long period of mutual understanding and co-operation between the two peoples, both in war and peace.

Of 6,000 tanks given the Russians by the United Nations, more than 900 were manufactured in Canada, while 2,000 universal carriers had been forwarded from Canada, as well as quantities of guns and more than 22,000,000 rounds of ammunition of various types.

(It was learned from other sources that Canada actually has sent to Russia about 1,200 tanks. A spokesman at Mr. King's office said the Prime Minister's figure of 900 Canadian tanks covered the period during which a total of 6,000 had been sent and was not intended to be an upto-date figure.)

Military clothing and supplies had been sent the Russians, along with strategic metals and materials, while a \$10.000.000 credit agreement had been made to cover purchases of Canadian wheat and flour for Russia.

"Today our common task in this vast struggle has brought Russia and Canada close together," said Mr. King. "Tomorrow, when the scourge of Fascism has been blasted from the minds of common men everywhere, our peoples must work side by side to aid in the establishment of a world order based on inter-dependence and on the worth of human personality."

Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative house leader, said that as long as the voice of freedom was heard it would pay tribute to the valor, endurance and indomitable pluck of the Red Army.

M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, said that in honoring Russia it was part of Canada's bounden duty to break down the suspicion that remained in some minds in respect to Russia.

Ever since Russia entered the war he had hoped for two things – first, that Russia might become rather more democratic in its ways and methods of government and second, that the democratic nations might become more progressive.

New Democracy Leader Blackmore said his group "heartily concurs in the fine things that have been said."