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CANADA'S \$17,000,000 HELPED RUSSIA WIN GREAT VICTORIES

By H. R. ARMSTRONG

Ottawa, May 21. Canada's mutual aid to Russia during the past year exceeded \$75,000, 000, according to unofficial estimates. This brings the Dominion's contribution to Russia's fighting strength to more than \$100, 000, 000 since the start of the mutual aid program. This does not include substantial assistance to the Soviet provided indirectly by Canada, through Britain before the Dominion inaugurated her own mutual aid system.

In the light of the changed situation since Germany's surrender the Canadian mutual aid agreement with Russia is now under review. Canadian mutual aid heads are in consultation with Russian embassy officials here. It is likely mutual aid to the Soviet will be scaled down to a small fraction of what it has been in view of the fact Russia is no longer at war.

Mutual aid agreements with other United Nations are also in the course of revision because of V-E Day results but the situation with regard to Russia is different. Russia is not at war with Japan and both countries are likely to take the view that, for that reason, there is no further need of Canada sending the Soviet fighting equipment for supplies. The current agreement expires June 30, and would have been renewed had not Germany been beaten before that date.

Repair Soviet Ships

Though mutual aid to Russia, will, in general, pretty well end because of cessation of hostilities in Europe it will not cease entirely at once. For example, one of the big items in Canadian assistance to Russia was free repair of Soviet ships by Canadian shipyards. Some Soviet vessels are now in process of being repaired. These will be finished and charged to mutual aid. But in most other respects the agreement will virtually terminate. Some other items of mutual aid may be continued to Russia, but not on anything like the scale of the past two years during which assistance averaged about \$50,000,000 a year. Russia is buying a considerable quantity of electrical equipment from Canada on credits previously arranged, but these will be paid for and do not form part of mutual aid.

Canada's more than \$75,000,000 aid to Russia last year emphasizes the spirit of the earlier report of the mutual aid board which said: "The succession of brilliant Soviet victories which may have turned the tide of war in favor of the Allies, is being won by her own fighting men and in the main by her fighting men and in the main by her own weapons. Canada is playing her part, however, in supplying materials for the production of these weapons and in feeding the workers who produce them and the men who wield them".

Soviet Union Grateful

The report adds: "The Soviet Union has gratefully acknowledged this contribution. Supplies furnished under mutual aid have done much to promote the excellent relations now prevailing between Canada and the USSR, the sacrifice of Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen transcend any form of material aid. This weighing of lives against munitions cannot be made in a report. It must be made in the heart and conscience of every Canadian".

Canada's aid to Russia included been beaten before that date universal carriers; explosives, mechanical transport, industrial machinery like lathes, planers and grinding machines, steel rails;

lead, aluminum nickel and other metals; wheat and flour; repairs and servicing of Soviet ships in Canadian shipyards and miscellaneous stores and supplies.

Previous to Canada's own mutual aid arrangement, the Dominion had furnished Russia through Britain with 1,223 tanks; 1,348 Bren carriers, 29 sets of radar equipment, 10,000 tons of aluminum, 27,000 tons of I copper and other equipment and supplies. In addition, Canada in 1942, granted the Soviet a \$10,000,000 credit for wheat and flour.

Consideration is being given to what post-war aid Canada will give Russia and to what extent this will be done through UNRRA, under mutual aid or by credits granted to the Soviet.