

THE ELIBANK INCIDENT

Lord Elibank's Speech, as reported in the Toronto
Globe, August 20th.

Canada's problem of air defence is just as serious as that of any other part of the Empire.

The United States could not keep out of the last war. She will have less chance of remaining out of the next.

The only hope for civilization is the unity of English-speaking nations, but only effective if they throw armed weight into the struggle.

These points were outlined in a speech delivered yesterday by the Right Honourable Lord Elibank, British statesman.

The luncheon was tendered by the English Speaking Union of the British Empire

No city in the world would be safe in the next conflict, warned the Peer, who successfully pleaded before the House of Lords for adequate air protection. The bombing planes of today could travel 5,000 miles without having to refuel. Canadian cities of Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal were vulnerable from the Atlantic and Vancouver from the Pacific, he said, and bombs could be scattered over them "like so much confetti".

"We of the Motherland will have to be in the conflict which faces Europe" he continued. "Canada can stay out of it for the time being if she so wishes. That is up to her. The early neutrality of the United States in the last war cost her more, in lives and money, than if she had been in from the start. This time she cannot stay out even that long.

"Special squadrons for your defence are now being maintained by the Royal Air Force, for which, by the way, we are being taxed. In your comfortable position you do not seem to have faced the problem, as have South Africa, Australia and New Zealand," said Lord Elibank.

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