

within sight of the mighty cataract, before crossing into the United States. The citizens of the Niagara peninsula, many of whom are direct descendants of United Empire Loyalist stock will welcome the opportunity of expressing their loyalty and devotion to their majesties on their visit to Canada.

In the present debate all hon. members are given ample opportunity to express their views on the subject matter contained in the speech from the throne. When the speech from the throne is presented it is considered to contain a reflection of the policies the government is advocating to meet the problems which confront the Canadian people. It is only fair that we should compare the speech from the throne with the pledges made to the electors before the election in October, 1935, and before this government took office.

After three years I had expected to find at least some explanation of the unfulfilled promises made to the citizens of Canada at that time. Naturally it is with no surprise that we hear increasing murmurings from every part of the dominion. Evasion and inaction are terms which are being applied to the lack of policy which has been so evident during the last three years. A great fear hangs over Canada. For some time past the world has been in a state of military eruption. The crust of civilization appears to be wearing thinner and thinner. With strange suddenness that crust has been broken in spots, only to emit violence and the destructive flames of war. To a certain extent those eruptions have been more or less of a minor nature compared with what may take place at any moment.

We cannot, however, lose sight of the fact that the streets of distant cities and towns are flowing again with human blood. To listen to the speeches delivered by the Prime Minister of England and Chancellor Hitler within the last few days makes one wonder just how quickly the eruption might come again. Fear has again seized a once trusting people. Economists declare war is the result of the natural demand for new markets, aggravated by the irresistible need for raw materials. Whatever frenzy has seized a few—and a few only—of the once so-called civilized nations of the world, it is generally conceded that a more vicious form of selfishness and greed is dominating the hearts and minds of a few of the nations who were professing culture and progress, but who have cast aside all semblance of decency in their lust for power and possession. Surely it is high time, in the name of right and justice, we openly joined our limited resources with those of greater influence.

In the speech from the throne we have the proposal to spend over sixty millions on national defence. With that policy I am in hearty accord. Only a few madmen have made necessary this most drastic action. Is it not, however, all too significant that hand in hand with the proposal to spend vast millions on defence we have laid before us the report of what is called the Davis commission, appointed to inquire into the first large armament expenditure that has been made. On the streets the general comment is that evasion was evident in the report. Some call it a white-wash; some interpret it as the direct result of political influence. One has only to keep his ears open and say nothing, and he will conclude that whatever else the Bren gun can do, it is certainly going to have a double-barrelled recoil on the minds of the people of Canada.

May I extend a word of congratulation to the hon. member for Vancouver North (Mr. MacNeil) upon the able way in which he presented his views to the house, following a study of the commission's report. We heard the rumblings of the past two years concerning the way in which defence moneys had been spent on the Pacific coast. How that echo has gained volume, with the last few millions of dollars spent for Bren guns! Thousands of dollars have been spent on a commission and now parliament is to decide whether or not we have dug a dead factory from an industrial grave. Now we have a scurrying for cover behind the promise that this will not happen again, because "we are now to set up a defence purchasing board." Mention the Bren gun inquiry on the street, in the train, in a hotel corridor or, perchance, in any place where men would congregate, and if a person were to take a straw vote on what he heard or the opinions expressed, I can only say that the old saying would still hold good, namely that you cannot fool all the people all the time. Is it to be wondered that we have fear at home and abroad? In the midst of it all we stop and realize that unemployment is again on the increase.

Oh, yes, I forgot we are to have some assistance given to the struggling taxpayers at this eleventh hour. Some help is to be given to the taxpayer who has been doing his best to relieve the burdens of some of his brother-men. But in thousands of instances it is too late. The red arrow indicating a tax sale, the red arrow indicating a foreclosure, was aimed two or three years ago at the home owner who had dreaded it for years. The earnings of half a lifetime or perhaps a whole lifetime are gone. Why was