

*North Atlantic Treaty*

possible of application only because the British navy guaranteed the freedom of the seas to the whole world. They thought they could develop their civilization, their natural resources and their way of life behind this barrier.

Providence did not want it to be so, however. In 1914, the United States hesitated quite a long time before entering the war because they thought they were immune to attack. They thought the great expanse of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans formed a large enough barrier to prevent any people from Europe or Asia desecrating the sanctity of the American soil. After two and a half years they realized that the Kaiser's hordes were dangerous not only to European civilization but to the civilization of the whole world. At that time they joined the attack and were an important factor in our victory.

Following the signing of the treaty of Versailles, and remembering what happened to the league of nations, the Americans entrenched themselves behind their wall of isolationism. Did that show a martial spirit? It showed that the people of the United States were hoping, begging and praying that the people of Europe would find it possible to settle their problems without recourse to arms. They were hoping and believing that the league of nations would find a solution and thus prevent war. When the horrible clouds of nazism, communism and fascism appeared on the horizon, these people were hoping the clouds would be harmlessly dissipated and that understanding would again be predominant in Europe. This did not happen. They knew what happened at Munich. We were all at Munich because we were hoping that the hated nazism would never dare attack the democracies.

Nazism did dare to attack the democracies and the reason was a simple one. In those days there was nothing that looked like the Atlantic pact. Hitler, Mussolini, Lenin and Stalin thought the democracies were weak, that the democracies were feeble, and that, under the strain of war conditions, they would dwindle away to nothing. It is true this did not happen. It is true that we found our soul, and it is true that we sensed the danger that was going to inundate the whole world. The hour was almost too late. During part of that time the great nation to the south of us was still thinking in terms of 1914. They believed the Atlantic and Pacific would be a barrier to the hordes of barbarism. When they were hit foully, however, in Pearl Harbor, they suddenly realized that even a small spot in the Pacific ocean situated thousands of miles from the mainland of the United States was an integral part of the

[Mr. Bradette.]

American soil. Then immediately they went over to our side, and it is no doubt greatly owing to that fact that we have known the fruits of victory. Surely one must have realized also since that time that the great American republic and the fine American people do not desire war; it is the last thing they wish.

Let us put to ourselves the question that we could also put to the Canadian population: Why would the individual American desire war? What benefit will he get as a result of another world war, with the atomic bomb as a menace not only to other nations but also to the Americans themselves? What would the Americans collectively gain by a new world conflict? They have absolutely nothing to gain and a great deal to lose.

Those are things that we must of necessity remember in a discussion of that kind. The American people are not cool toward the Atlantic pact; they know in their own souls that it is the only solution they can find at the present time for peace and for freedom; because this pact is really not a pact of aggression but a pact of nonaggression—a pact of freedom as *Saturday Night* so well said in its last issue.

Who are the people that will sign that pact? Canada will be one of the signatories, and I know now that it will be with the unanimous consent not only of this parliament but of every section of our Canadian population. Does Canada desire war? Have we any grievances against the Russian people? Certainly our actions in the past are a guarantee for the present and for the future. We were obliged to stand at the side of our allies in 1914 and again in 1939. But after the conflict was over, Canada did not want and did not expect her pound of flesh. We wanted no territorial aggrandizement. We went there of our own free will, but never with any idea of benefiting territorially or geographically as far as the war was concerned. As was so well said this afternoon by the leader of the opposition, over one hundred thousand young Canadians are sleeping their last sleep on foreign soil; that is, on soil foreign to Canada. They were sacrificed on the altar of democracy and freedom. They went there because they knew they had to go in the name of the Canadian nation to defend the things which we hold dearest in our minds and in our souls.

In 1941, in front of the parliament buildings, nearly every evening for many months there was a trooping of the colours and a changing of the guard. Young soldiers from the various bodies of the armed forces—from the Royal Canadian Air Force, the army and the navy—were parading in front of the parliament buildings. I always made it a point to look