

conference. These doubts have some basis in fact and will continue and become of graver importance unless all countries and the free nations of the world are invited and represented and unless injustices which have already been committed are set aright.

Take the case of Poland. This is of interest to all of Canada and of particular interest to the Polish citizens of Canada. These are not an inconsiderable number. Do you know that there are in Canada 167,485 persons of Polish extraction, and over a million persons of Polish extraction in the United States of America? Renfrew county, which I have the honour to represent, has between five and six thousand citizens of Polish birth and ancestry. In this war Polish citizens from Renfrew county have joined the armed forces voluntarily in large numbers. Many have been decorated for gallantry, and many have laid down their lives for a cause which they deemed to be just and to give evidence to their fatherland and to their relatives in Poland that the ancestral ties were still strong and that they were willing and ready to make the supreme sacrifice if needs be.

Let me say that no county has a finer class of citizens than the Polish people of Renfrew county. They are honest, industrious, hard-working, good living and God-fearing people. They are men of the land and of the forest. They have been there for many years; they have raised large families, have become prosperous and are splendid law-abiding citizens. They have their own parishes and churches. As a matter of fact the parish of Wilno in Renfrew county is called after Vilna in Poland and is the oldest Polish parish in Canada.

These people have made an appeal to me to present the case of their country to the Canadian parliament on their behalf, on behalf of their fatherland and in the name of justice and British and Canadian fair play. They ask this to be done in order that Poland may obtain the justice which she so much deserves for her loyalty to her British allies. I accepted that task gladly and I make no apology for making this protest or bringing up the matter here because it has been brought up already in the British parliament and in the congress of the United States.

I am mindful of the position which the great Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Blake took in the defence of the country of my ancestors when her position was somewhat similar to that of Poland. No country under the banners of the united nations has fought more valourously, gained more of glory on land and sea or in the skies than has Poland. There were Polish paratroopers in that heroic band which

endured to the last at Arnhem. There is an armoured Polish brigade under General Maezek fighting in Holland. There is a Polish legion with the first Canadian army. There is a Polish division under General Anders with the eighth army in Italy. There are Polish airmen daily and nightly in the skies over Germany and forty-five per cent of all allied naval decorations granted by the British government have gone to Polish sailors—to that Polish navy which is but nine per cent of the allied naval effort. All of us, therefore, should be proud to salute Poland and proud also to hope that the Polish people fighting Hitler and tyranny with the finest heroism, will win for their own country the freedom it deserves.

Poland is a constitutional state, constituted under international law with boundaries defined. It was a free sovereign and independent nation, a very ancient state over 1,500 years old with a distinct language and strong powerful racial sense. Belonging to the western civilization, possessing a great degree of culture, having produced many learned scientists, musicians, poets, writers, painters and sculptors—to mention only a few, Copernicus, Chopin, Paderewski, Conrad and Madam Curie—Poland has always had a democratic form of government. It has some of the oldest universities in Europe.

On account of war-time conditions Poland, like Belgium, Holland and other countries, has had her legal government in London, which government is based on the principal of legal continuity and was the successor to the government of General Sikorski whom Mr. Churchill clasped so warmly by the hand, vowing friendship in life and death, saying, "We shall conquer together or we shall die together". Thus spoke Mr. Churchill in 1940. The Polish government in London is recognized by the Polish nation. An army of nearly 200,000 men is sworn to this government and the Polish underground is likewise sworn to this government. This government was recognized by all the countries of the world as the legal government of Poland. Even Russia recognized this as the legal government of Poland until the Moscow-made Lublin committee of liberation took its place.

The legal Polish government in London has not been invited to the San Francisco conference where it might be given an opportunity to present its case, and where a decision as to the matter of its present and future status might be honourably sought. We find that at the Yalta conference that government has been repudiated and one of Russia's choosing at Lublin recognized.