

in the Canadian parliament. This session and this debate show conclusively that there are things which are worth preserving.

The hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore), in the course of his remarks last night, said that democracy, unfortunately, does not work. Well, here we have the working of democracy—that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre could make the speech which he made last night.

Mr. MANION: Without being shot.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, from the numerous documents which have been circulated and laid on the table there is one missing to which I desire to call the attention of the house, and it is an important one. I refer to the message which His Majesty the King broadcast last Sunday, the third of September. With the permission of the house I should like to put on *Hansard* two or three sentences only of his majesty's message over the radio. His majesty said:

In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my peoples, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.

And further, speaking of the principle of the use of force and might against right:

Such a principle, stripped of all disguise, is surely the mere primitive doctrine that might is right. If this principle were established throughout the world, the freedom of our own country and of the whole British commonwealth of nations would be in danger.

But far more than this, the peoples of the world would be kept in the bondage of fear, and all hopes of settled peace and security, of justice and liberty, among nations, would be ended.

This is the ultimate issue which confronts us. For the sake of all that we ourselves hold dear, and of the world order and peace, it is unthinkable that we should refuse to meet the challenge.

It is to this high purpose that I now call my people at home and my peoples across the seas who will make our cause their own.

Our king, Mr. Speaker, is at war, and this parliament is sitting to decide whether we shall make his cause our own.

I well remember the circumstances under which this house met in 1914. The conditions were similar. Of course, that was a long time ago, and very few members are present in this house to-day who were here on that occasion. My good friend and colleague the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cardin), my hon. friend the member for Kootenay East (Mr. Stevens) and I are the only three left of the parliament of 1914. There was unanimity in the parliament of 1914—unanimity in favour of the decision which the govern-

ment of that day had taken—and there were only two speeches on the address, that of the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, and that of my beloved leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

In a newspaper a few days ago I saw this question: "How many Paul Emil Lamarches will be in the present parliament when the question is raised?" Well, my late friend Paul Emil Lamarche was one of the best men I have ever met. He was a nationalist member, elected in 1911, and opposed to all participation in wars overseas. He was here and he gave his support to the policy of the government of that day, and if all the members to whom this newspaper was addressing itself do as Paul Emil Lamarche did, they will vote for the policy of the present government. And we cooperated afterwards.

To those who criticize me to-day and who claim that I have changed my views, let me say that I am quite willing to show them the text of the speeches which I made on many occasions during the war. The change came on the conscription issue, which unfortunately was projected into the field at the time and which has sown the seeds of discord of which even to-day we are reaping the bitter fruit. When the war was over I made myself a propagandist of peace. I have always been a strong supporter of the League of Nations and have advocated its principles in my province and elsewhere. I have told my fellow countrymen persistently that it would be useless to think there might be a grave conflict into which we would not be drawn, and that the only way for us to escape war was to work and try to prevent it. Unfortunately, however, not many of those who clamour to-day were then helping to advance the cause of peace; rather, they were ridiculing the League of Nations and similar institutions.

I hate war with all my heart and conscience, but devotion to peace does not mean ignorance or blindness. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) hates war and has devoted much of his time and energy to promoting the instruments of peace. Indeed, until the very last moment, when clouds hung heavily over the world, he was sending messages beseeching the dictators and the president of Poland to try to find means of avoiding this tremendous catastrophe. England has worked for peace. I know it; I have attended many of the conferences since the end of the great war, both in Geneva and in London. It is a base calumny to say that England is responsible for anything that has led to the present conflict. France has worked continuously for peace, and it is a slander to say that France is responsible in any way for the conflict. These