

Defence of Canada Regulations

properties. In addition I think we should have national service and an immediate national registration, and compel each man, woman and child to do their part to repel the invader at the gate. No time should be lost.

All these things were demanded last Sunday at a meeting of the Canadian Corps Association in my constituency, attended by some 50,000 people, at which some of the same resolutions which I have brought before this house were endorsed. I have called, during the last three years in this house, for a national registration of man-power, economic and industrial power, food production, for a survey of all industries in this country, large and small, to see if we could not get part of the orders resulting from England's rearmament scheme. As I mentioned the other night, we were able to obtain only about one per cent of those orders, as a result of being too late even as to tanks, aeroplanes and other war equipment, and no industry was asked to tender.

I have lost a great deal of interest and confidence in the committee system. We have a committee to look after the Canadian National Railways; we have an election committee, an agricultural committee and others; we had a Bren gun committee. When the reports of these committees are presented what happens? The reports are brought in towards the end of the session, and the chairman, after an hour's debate, moves that the debate be adjourned. That happened in connection with four committees last year, and all discussion was shut off. No one knows what will be the fate of this country; no one knows to whom it will belong at the end of the year if Great Britain and France should lose the war. Canada is the next objective in this fight to a finish. So long as this war lasts, Canada must do something all along the line.

The issue in this resolution, as I see it, is whether the regulations are fair and reasonable. If so, the country will support the government who must take the responsibility for them. Yesterday the Minister of Justice said these regulations expressed government policy; that is the policy in the red book of regulations. If that is the case, why does the government not now take responsibility for them without a committee and amend them? Under the French and British systems the responsibility for government rests on the governments, not on the opposition, not on committees or commissions. As long as they are the government of the day they are responsible, and they should take the responsibility. The government should decide what these regulations are to be, having in view Italy's entry into the war. Then the regula-

[Mr. Church.]

tions should be proclaimed and federally enforced by Ottawa itself. Other matters can be taken up later on, but as matters stand at present the people do not know what are the regulations. In the past the government has been too late, and I am urging that in this instance it should do its plain duty. There is not a moment to be lost, now that Italy has come in. During the Spanish trouble, Italian submarines found shelter on the south-east coast of that country, and Italy has modern submarines that can cross the Atlantic ocean and return without refueling, and go round the cape without refueling. Yet we sit here appointing a committee to revise these regulations, in the face of the gravest danger that Canada and the empire have ever faced. Every day is bringing this war closer to our shores, while we have been too late in Canada in everything. In the metre of an old evangelist hymn, we might say:

Too late, too late will be the cry,
Hitler of Germany passeth by,
Too late, too late will be the cry,
Mussolini the vulture passeth by.

This is not the time to appoint committees. Action is wanted at once. Why, even the police commission of the city of Toronto cannot get copies of orders in council to learn what the regulations are so as to enforce them against alien enemies. In the Toronto *Telegram* of yesterday re Italian riots, I see these headlines:

Angry Toronto citizens smash Italian shop
windows
Beer bottles and bricks wreck glass in eleven
stores
Police make one arrest
Window smashing goes on from early evening
till after midnight

Many people of Italian origin should not be punished in this way, especially those who were in this country before the last war, unless it can be shown they are hostile. Many are intelligent citizens who have raised families in this country for thirty or forty years and who contributed freely to patriotic funds during the last war, and are in no way responsible for this madman in Italy. But there are many others who have been brought into Canada after 1927 and recently who should be brought under these regulations. If we are fighting the German and Italian peoples overseas, I believe war ought to be brought home overseas to those peoples. There is no use in saying that it is not the Italian people or the German people we are fighting. I am glad to see that at last the hour of truth has arrived and that now the allies have reached a show-down with Hitler. Until a month or so ago nearly all fighting had been on the sea, with the exception of the invasion of Norway and