

but the fact is that 335,000 were saved. The allies had tried all that was possible; they were then faced with the necessity of doing the impossible, and they did it. This fine spirit of Dunkirk is not confined to the European continent. It has found expression on many occasions in Canada since the outbreak of war and is now, I believe, more alive than it ever was.

To-day France, our noble ally, has fallen. She lies with guns pointed at her heart and disarmed. Relations between Great Britain and France are becoming more and more acrimonious. It would be most unfair to try to judge downtrodden France, and any discussion of the hypothetical decisions of her government is bound to lead us into misrepresentations as well as misunderstandings, and to risk our great asset, the unity of our beloved dominion.

Many people of France have lost their lives, and those who have survived are menaced by tyranny. Great Britain and France have great confidence in one another. Mr. Speaker, I beg of hon. members of this house and of all Canadian citizens that they save that confidence, the one thing that can be saved. I cannot think of a better way to do it than to think of our friends, their kindness and affection. No matter what is said of the Frenchmen, no matter what is said of the Englishmen, let us think of certain Frenchmen, let us think of certain Englishmen who we know are incapable of any but noble and generous thoughts. Let us extend our kindness and friendliness. The need for kindness in the world to-day is appalling, and yet there lies, I believe, our strength and the key to this new and modern world to which we have harnessed our lives and for which we are shedding our blood.

I wish to refer briefly, Mr. Speaker, to the problem of agriculture, which has become a national problem and an integral part of our war effort. It is made clear by every process of logic and by the proof of historic fact that the wealth of a nation, the character of its people, the quality and permanence of its institutions, are all dependent upon a sound and sufficient agricultural foundation. Not armies or navies, or commerce, or diversity of manufactures, or great distributive systems, or anything other than the farm, is the anchor which will hold through the storms of time which sweep all else away.

The last great war was the principal cause of Canada's rise to the position of a great wheat exporting country. Canada expanded her acreage to become the leading wheat exporting nation of the world, which position she still holds. At the time of the declaration of war some people expected wheat to

soar in price simply because a war was in progress. They overlooked the fact that Europe had been preparing for war for several years and that substantial reserves had been stored up in that continent. Never before has a major war started with such an abundant supply of food in the world.

The prairie farmers realize that they are called upon to guarantee ample supplies of food for the allies during the war. They have learned to produce abundantly. Gradually, by the use of machines, agriculture is being relieved of back-breaking manual labour. The faithful and diligent horse is gradually being relegated to the background, and fast, efficient and economic machines take its place. One hundred years ago it took the efforts of ninety per cent of the population, busily employed on farms, to feed and clothe the nation. To-day twenty-five per cent of that population can easily do the job. This great productivity has served only to beat down prices to penurious levels.

There are three million Canadians living on farms, and there are another two millions living in rural areas whose livelihood depends almost directly on agriculture. Thus when agriculture's existence is imperilled by low prices, five million Canadians suffer jointly. The western farmers realize the complexity of the problem and are not asking for excess profits, but they feel that a reasonable parity should be maintained between the prices of farm products and the prices of the things they have to buy.

(Translation) At the outset of this new session, I express the hope that nothing will be said or done in this house which might be prejudicial to what is still our most valuable asset: national unity. The effective defence of our country requires the concentration of our efforts at such a place and time, and in such a way, that they will best contribute to the defeat of the German armies. Our real aim is the mobilization of a well-organized and wisely-led Canadian people. We have already achieved this, to a large extent, and we shall march on towards this goal with a common will, as long as we enjoy the full confidence of the Canadian people.

If mobilization on a national scale has been such a success, it is due, I believe, to equality in sacrifice. All able-bodied citizens must be prepared to make the same sacrifices, and all classes will find comfort in the thought that there will be no exemptions. This is of prime importance. There must also exist equality of financial contribution. I will abstain from enlarging upon this point, but will briefly refer to excessive war profits. Means of controlling such excesses are not wanting and it must be stated that such as have been put