

It is true that we have an international court of justice now. The Dumbarton Oaks agreement indicates that this court either may be continued or a new court of justice set up to take its place. I believe we should look at the record of the present international court of justice and realize as Canadians that under the present court a good many agreements, decisions and even treaties have been made or interpreted. It seems to me the Canadian delegation should endeavour to maintain the present international court of justice, for to wipe it out and establish a new one may involve the setting aside of agreements, treaties and so on which are related to the present court. I am not an international lawyer, and that may be a wrong interpretation, but I think consideration should be given to that aspect of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals which provide for either the continuation of the present court or the establishment of a new one.

As I say, the point is that progressive peoples everywhere ought to endeavour to secure a code of law for mankind that will be as applicable to behaviour among nations as it is to behaviour among individuals in our communities. So believing all this, I can say that we regard the steps that have been taken at Cairo, at Moscow, at Teheran, at Dumbarton Oaks and at Yalta towards mutual understanding as steps in the right direction. Thus Canada should be prepared to play its appropriate part in an international organization or any international organizations that may be set up as a result of the San Francisco conference and similar conferences in future, to the establishment of which this parliament subsequently agrees. In short, then, we believe that a workable arrangement for the maintenance of peace and to lay the foundations of world-wide social and economic justice can be achieved at San Francisco. In our opinion it will be the duty of the Canadian delegation to obtain the best arrangement possible. Let me repeat that. It will be the duty of the Canadian delegation to obtain the best arrangement possible and then for our parliament and our people to support it even if it does not go all the way we should go, or does not do all that we would desire. I venture to say that the San Francisco conference will in no instance meet the desires of every or any of the delegates attending it. Canada ought to be prepared to press for improvements in the Dumbarton Oaks Agreement, and, having done that, to join with the other peace-loving nations of the earth in establishing the most effective peace system obtainable at this time, in the hope that as the years roll by we may be able to secure a

[Mr. Coldwell.]

better and a more effective plan to provide economic and social security, freedom from fear, from want and from war, for all mankind.

Mr. PAUL MARTIN (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, in rising to discuss a matter which concerns the peace of the world, and the opening of a new chapter in that world, I do so conscious of some of the impressionable experiences I have had within less than a month when it was my privilege to visit the United Kingdom, and also to see our troops in Holland, Belgium and France.

One point I would emphasize to-day is this: Not only the character of Canada as a nation among the nations of the world, but the tremendous debt we owe our young men from all parts of the country, young men who have given their lives, who are giving their lives and who are prepared to give their lives for decency and civilization, demand that we in this and other parliaments, take two steps. The first is that in the prosecution of the war, now nearing the first phase of its end, steps shall be taken to bring to their proper retribution those individuals and groups who have brought upon the world the fantastic experience through which we have gone during the last five and a half years. The second step is that there shall be created in the individual countries social and economic security, and all that that implies. But this is not possible unless the kind of thing we are discussing to-day—the means by which we shall minimize the causes of war and the means by which we shall provide international order—is made effective. Unless these things are done we cannot provide this security. And so, as I think of the young men who within the last month I saw plugging through the mud of Holland and the mud of France, I say that unless we can satisfactorily arrive at some understanding between the great powers, and between the middle and smaller nations, we shall not have repaid that tremendous debt—that unbelievable debt, one which I never would have believed without the experience I have had during the past two months—to the men in our armed forces who have conducted the prosecution of the war.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), as head of the government of Canada in 1943, was among the first of the heads of governments in the united nations to welcome the formation of a General International Organization. This is the first parliament in the free world to discuss, in the solemn form we are doing to-day, the proposals made at Dumbarton Oaks.