

getting a little tired of the use being made of the word "democracy"—were an effete lot, that they were not prepared to stand up and fight for their liberties, and that aggression was a safe method of procedure. Well, unless a pretty definite stand is taken now by those who prize their freedom, they may expect that aggression will not cease, but will continue to the limit.

I mention these facts also because I wish to place before the house evidence that the government, from the time that it came into office in the autumn of 1935, has been watching the situation closely and seeking to prepare, as best it could for the present moment. I need not recall how for a number of years prior to that time not this country only but many countries were not increasing but reducing armaments. The previous administration, as we all know, acting in some particulars at least as I assume almost any administration would have acted at the time, did considerably reduce the armaments of this country. In particular, the numbers of the air force were materially reduced from what they had been when we left office in 1930. That was due to the fact that most countries were placing a certain reliance upon the League of Nations and a certain reliance upon policies of disarmament in which they hoped all other nations would be prepared to join. Advantage was taken of that fact by the country which to-day is invading other lands. Let me pause here to say that while at the moment we cannot afford to discuss policies of the past more than is essential to an understanding of how these situations have arisen, I think that when this war is over we should examine very carefully into the policies which have been in force in the different countries and which have played their part in creating the present situation. I believe there was a time when Germany was quite prepared to sit in with other nations and do her part in seeing that the Versailles treaty, in so far as it related to the reduction of armaments, was carried out all round; and if Germany started to arm, as she did, there may be something to her contention that she had something to fear because other nations were arming when she was being denied that right. I mention that only because I am sure all of us are anxious, if it can be avoided, once this war is ended, not to see any situation ever again develop comparable with that which has developed in the last five years.

As I have said, when this government came into office we found the defences of the country in anything but the strength that

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

the circumstances demanded. I am not attributing this by way of blame upon another administration. I am saying now that had we been in office in the previous years we, doubtless, would have done our utmost to cut down armaments and military expenditures. What I wish to make clear, however, is that the government which perceived the danger and was anxious to get defence estimates increased was obliged to take a great risk when it came into this house and asked for more money for purposes of defence. Hon. members will well recall that when in 1937 we greatly increased the estimates we had considerable difficulty in getting the support of many of our own party and, while in some quarters we were not opposed, we did not obtain from any quarter aught in the way of thanks or encouragement for the increased expenditures which we were proposing. It is easy to be wise after the fact, but as a government at that time we were presenting to parliament what we considered essential to Canada's defence in view of the possible development of affairs in other lands and having regard to the serious situation that existed throughout the world.

In 1938 we not only maintained the defence levels which had been raised in the previous year, but we asked for increased appropriations for defence purposes at that time. In 1939 we greatly increased the Canadian defence estimates. I will give a statement of the figures. The actual expenditure for defence in each of the following years was, in round figures:—

1935-36.. . . . .	\$17,000,000
1936-37.. . . . .	22,923,000
1937-38.. . . . .	32,760,000
1938-39.. . . . .	34,432,000

The estimate for 1939-40 amounted altogether to \$64,528,815. Of that, capital expenditures represented \$30,000,000 and ordinary expenditures \$34,000,000. Since then governor general's warrants have been issued, in addition to that sum, amounting to \$16,454,000.

These figures I give as indicating to hon. members that the government were going ahead with preparation for defence purposes just as far as they felt they could carry the house with them. Had we gone further we would not have received the necessary support to get through our appropriations. We were conscious of the growing threat of war, and basing our policies upon it. Nations have been living under this threat of war year in and year out. The war of nerves, as it has been graphically and appropriately called, has been going on for years. We have been seeking to do our part to put this country's defences in proper shape to meet the fatal moment should it come.