

nellers, tank-drivers, and signallers. We have young men in our agriculture, indeed in all spheres of our activity, who are accustomed to driving over territory such as in tanks they would have to traverse. Where are we with tanks? We have some light tanks at Camp Borden. They are so light and so small in number that they are not even part of the equipment of our Second Division. They are used for training, it is true. There is no country in the world better equipped to make tanks than we are. We could make them in Hamilton alone in two factories, and one factory there could make 250 in a month, and do so right along. If there is a weapon that is essential in this mechanized conflict, it is the tank. We could provide tunnellers with our miners and signallers. I make this statement, that in signalling we have not equipment to train the men. We have no modern equipment with which to train them yet. I mentioned railway troops. A public man in Ontario made the statement some months ago that the British Government had requested railway troops, but these had never been sent. So far as I have been able to find, that statement has never been denied. I do not know whether the request from Britain took the form of an inquiry as to whether we should like to do so. If it did, this Government would not consider it a request at all. They would just say, "No, we had no request." It may have taken any form; I know not what. But personally I believe the statement. When the Prime Minister of Canada tells us that he is in constant consultation with the British Government, I believe him. But if he wants us to infer that he is meeting Britain's urgent requests for this war, then I cannot accept his statement. I do not think he himself has ever gone so far as to say that; but he has a Minister who did, and newspapers who do. One of them is in Brockville. They have assured us we were doing all we were asked to do. It is all right to talk about being in consultation, but it is not fair and it is not right to give the people of Canada the impression that consultation means practical and full co-operation on our part.

I do not know what other requests have been made; I may have no right to know; but in the last war I had experience sufficient to convince me that there are things Britain would have liked us to do that we were not always able to do. Nobody who was through the last war could be ignorant of that fact. Possibly we cannot do all we are asked to do, but we can do much more than we have done. I know that we could send railways troops and forestry troops. They did wonderful work in the last conflict. But, though we may not be able to do all we are asked, surely

it is wrong to lead the people of Canada to think we are doing so; and this they have been led to believe to be the fact all through these months.

Now I make another complaint. Home defence is part of our work, though not the major one, for we defend ourselves best and most effectively by strengthening in our own appropriate way the arm of Britain and the Allies. If they go, we go. There are not very many in this country trying to find other sources of comfort now; there were months ago. To-day I cannot find any, no matter where I go. We know where the fortress is behind which we are going to live—or beneath which we are going to perish if it falls. There are some, even across the line, who are not of the view to-day which they held months ago. To-day they are not so confident that they could win after the great democracies of Europe have failed, and win after the might of those totalitarian powers is multiplied and they have come closer to our continent. There are, I know, some who so believe, but they are mostly confined over there to fifth columnists or to petted children of fortune. The United States people are coming to the view of their President, the mightiest and brainiest of their sons, who from the altitude of his high position and in the light of his luminous mind, unsurpassed in our day, sees the situation as it is. Over there is our defence. Over there is their defence. Let us act on that knowledge. Let us not live in a paradise that we know is false. Let us not invite the day when we shall have to stand beside our neighbours and fight the totalitarian world in possession of our home islands. Home defence, none the less, is still part of our duty.

According to a Government spokesman, we need for our home defence—I take no exception to his statement—six divisions. Have we them? We know we have not. What have we? I referred to the condition of those of our men who went overseas. I hope they are equipped with modern weapons of warfare now. I do not know. But I do know this, that, in order to get them over, our non-permanent units were largely stripped of their military clothing and training equipment. In that plight they are left.

Further, among the nine infantry battalions that went over, there were our only three permanent-force infantry battalions, the Royal Twenty-second of Quebec, the R.C.R. and the Princess Patricias. What was the purpose of maintaining our permanent force? The true