

the government's position from the Prime Minister at this time. I hope that the Prime Minister will make a statement as full and complete, as clear and definite as it is possible to do. After all, the people have a right to such a statement. It is true that parliament has been called to give its sanction and authority to what the government will do, but the government must submit, clearly and definitely, its policy to parliament. After all, a lead must be given even to parliament.

As part of the British empire we are at war to-day. I do not think there is any doubt about that. There may be some argument on technical and legal grounds, but I believe that is our position. I have listened to speeches made by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), the Prime Minister and various other members of the government; I have read the speeches of Laurier; I have studied the subject thoroughly and I have myself expressed the opinion that when Britain is at war, Canada is at war. I believe that is the realistic and the practical attitude that we must accept. I believe that is the opinion of the Prime Minister, of the Minister of Justice and of others who have studied the question. It was the opinion of Laurier, of Bennett, and various other people.

I hope the Prime Minister will heed me when I say that I think we might well declare our position openly and clearly. I repeat that we are at war. I do not think it can possibly be questioned that we are at war. In the interests of national understanding and clear thinking in our country, our position should be made quite clear. The Prime Minister in a statement to the press, made on the same day that I made the statement from which I quoted a few moments ago, used terms which were more definite than those contained in the speech from the throne. He said:

In the event of the United Kingdom becoming engaged in war in the effort to resist aggression, the government of Canada have unanimously decided, as parliament meets—

This is how it is quoted in the press.

—to seek its authority for effective cooperation by Canada at the side of Britain.

And again:

In the light of all the information at its disposal, the government will recommend to parliament the measures which it believes to be the most effective for cooperation and defence.

I sincerely hope and trust that when he speaks the Prime Minister will make clear the position and policy of the government. Upon that clear and definite statement depends everything. Upon that statement depends the effective and enthusiastic effort which will be

[Mr. Manion.]

made by Canadians. Upon it depends our co-operation. Upon it depends the real success of any efforts which Canada will make.

In closing I want to say that we are fighting in a war for justice, for honour and for liberty. We in Canada, like the people in England and in France, have no selfish motives and no desire for profit. We have no enmity toward any people. We are fighting, or we will be fighting, against policies and principles which are anti-christian and anti-democratic, policies and principles which are barbarous and brutal. Confident in the right of our cause, certain that justice will finally prevail, we should pledge ourselves here today to do our duty by Canada and the empire.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my first word must be one of thanks to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion) for the speech which he has just delivered, and particularly for what it conveys of his appreciation of the great responsibility which rests upon the shoulders of my colleagues and myself at this time. Even more I should like to thank him for his words of hearty cooperation with the government, not only for himself but on behalf of his party in this house and throughout the country, in having the most effective effort put forth by this nation in its endeavour to preserve its own liberties and institutions, and also to preserve the liberties and institutions of all free countries in the world.

My hon. friend the leader of the opposition has chivalrously alluded to the fact that the mover (Mr. Hamilton) and the seconder (Mr. Blanchette) of the address were each enlisted for active service in the last great war, and that the mover of the address had served abroad in Canada's expeditionary force. I should like to remind the house and the country that my hon. friend the leader of the opposition also performed a similar service during the great war. He enlisted and served overseas in the expeditionary force. It is significant I think that the first three speeches to be made in this house at this time of great peril to the world should be made by three hon. members each of whom was prepared to sacrifice his life on the battlefield some twenty or twenty-five years ago for the cause of freedom. It shows how deep in the breasts of men lies the determination to preserve, to maintain and to defend freedom and all that freedom makes possible in the enjoyment of life itself. This deep-lying instinct for freedom is, I believe, characteristic of the citizens of Canada from one end of this great country to the other.