

should follow a certain course, and I have indicated to the Prime Minister what in my opinion that course should be. I should not like to do anything which in any degree would embarrass the administration, but I do suggest the Prime Minister ought to make some reference to Vichy.

Now I turn to our relations with the United States. After the Ogdensburg meeting there was set up a joint defence committee and, to say the least, it has been functioning with great publicity. I have never condemned the Ogdensburg conversations. In the speech I made in Toronto I said it was capable of a high and noble purpose, and I believe so yet. But I thought I should sound a note of warning to the Canadian people that what was transpiring at Ogdensburg with great and blatant publicity had been carried on before with profound secrecy. And my colleague (Mr. Stirling) told that to the Prime Minister when we visited him on August 20.

I want to say this with respect to the references I made concerning Mr. Roosevelt, to the effect that it was window-dressing for him: I had no idea of referring to the impending election. But I did have reference to the difficulties Mr. Roosevelt was having with his own congress and his own congressional leaders. Why, it is well known that he had to get his attorney general to reverse his legal opinion about the delivery of the fifty destroyers. But he got the *quid pro quo*, and it took away the opposition from congress. That was the window-dressing I had in mind in connection with Ogdensburg.

Was there anything wrong about that? The hon. member for Yale and I went to see the Prime Minister. He was very frank with us; he told us that the conversations had been initiated by Mr. Roosevelt, and he told us why. He told us there were no commitments. I want to know what commitments there are to-day. I have not been able to find anything in the records yet, and I am asking the Prime Minister to be frank with the people of Canada. I agree that if Great Britain falls, which is unthinkable, then the matter becomes a very live and important one. But so long as Great Britain stands, so long as the British navy is there, so long as the Royal Air Force is our defender, the matter is not of first-class importance. I say that because the people of the United States themselves, and their leaders, have admitted that the British navy is their first line of defence.

There are one or two further points to which I should like to refer, and I turn first to the situation in Ireland. Last week I was greatly disturbed, in reading Mr. Churchill's

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

speech on the progress of the war, by his very specific references to the fact that one of the great menaces at this time to the successful winning of the war is the destruction of British and allied shipping by submarines. I was deeply interested in the problem presented by the refusal of the government of Mr. de Valera in Eire to allow the British government to lease naval bases in Eire, and to use airports in the same jurisdiction. The failure of Mr. de Valera to cooperate with the British government and his adoption of an extreme position of neutrality in this great conflict constitutes a serious problem in respect of the success of the British arms and the winning of the war. In my humble view such failure is a valuable contribution to the axis powers. Something should and must be done to meet this situation. It is apparent, I believe, that the government of Eire will not recede from its position of non-cooperation as a result only of a request from the government of Great Britain. But that very fact opens an opportunity to the government of Canada to make a wonderful contribution to the allied cause.

On Friday last I read with great interest and appreciation a letter written to the *Montreal Gazette* by a famous padre, Archdeacon Scott of Quebec. May I be permitted to quote one or two sentences:

We who in Canada live with and love the Irish (so many of whom have gone overseas, keen in their loyalty to the empire) feel that something could be done to save the bitter situation. We have nothing to do with the sad differences of Britain and Eire in the past. We are a new nation. French, Irish and British have found a deep heart union strengthened now by a common danger.

Then follows a most valuable suggestion, one which I desire to urge upon the Prime Minister and the government. I say the government should make a personal appeal to Mr. de Valera to lease to Canada for the duration of the war two ports on the west coast of Eire for use as empire naval stations. In addition to that, I suggest that Canada approach Mr. de Valera with a proposal that Eire lease to Canada certain strategic airports in the south and west of Eire for use as empire air stations.

I do not know whether such a proposal would be acceptable, but I do know that Canada should make the attempt. In days gone by Canada has been the friend of Ireland. She gave a warm welcome and opportunity to many Irish exiles in the days of long ago. She watched sympathetically, and sometimes helpfully, the creation of Irish freedom, and at successive imperial conferences and at Geneva Canada was a friend of Ireland. It may be that the position is not