

further than to say that while it may be difficult to regularize discussion at this stage of the session, without there being any specific proposals before the chair, there should not be the slightest appearance of attempt on anyone's part to choke off discussion or to close this part of the session in an unduly short period of time.

I am not unmindful, however, of the fact that this has already been a long session, not only in point of elapsed time but in point of time actually spent on the floor of the house. Unduly to prolong discussion merely for the sake of exchanging views and not for that of doing business, while it might add to the sum total of our information respecting the state of the country, the government's war effort, international affairs and the like, in my opinion would not be desirable unless we could accomplish something by so doing. I shall not say more on that point.

Yesterday afternoon we listened with much interest to a statement from the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in which he outlined to the country the progress of the war since we adjourned in June last, and reviewed the international situation. He dealt with the position of Russia, and aid to that country. He dealt with the position in the middle east and, quite properly in my opinion, with the increasingly difficult position which has developed in the far east, one which I know must be giving those in authority on this side of the Atlantic, as well as those on the other side, increasing concern. I think it was well for the Prime Minister to do that, because it drew to our attention a situation which is likely at any time to become increasingly menacing. I do not say that in an alarming sense, because I have no information on the subject matter. But I believe each of us realizes the importance of watching as closely as possible the situation which has developed on the Pacific front, if I may so describe it, a development due largely I believe to the change in government in the Japanese empire.

Then the Prime Minister gave us his conclusions. As a delineation of current history and of what has taken place since we last met, it was excellent in tone and style and was a fine portrayal of current events. But I must also say that it left me very cold. I was disappointed. I had hoped, and I believe the country had hoped, that after the Prime Minister's visit to England and after his conference over the week-end with the President of the United States, and after being so fully apprised, as he must be, of the international situation, he would have lifted the veil a little and told the house and the country what this government and our great neighbour pro-

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

pose to do about a situation which by his own account is getting more serious every day.

He warned us that every conceivable means by which freedom can be crushed is to-day being used by Hitler and nazi Germany. I agree. I am glad he gave that warning. And it is timely enough, because even after twenty-seven months of war I fear that Canadians are still too complacent, still not impressed with the dangers of the whole situation, and still sitting remote from the realities of what is occurring in this war-stricken world.

I do not know what more can be done than has been done by members of the government, by public propaganda or by whatever other legitimate means are available, to bring home to the Canadian people a realization of the seriousness of the situation. And yet I feel certain that it has not yet been brought home to them. I wish I could add something to the sum total of knowledge of the people of Canada respecting the seriousness of the situation overseas, and especially in Europe. I shall not say anything about the seriousness of the situation which may confront us from other theatres of possible war.

What the country had expected from the Prime Minister—what I had hoped for, at all events—was some stirring statement of what Canada proposes further to do to meet the menace delineated by him. I had hoped that he would announce proposals for measures designed not only to indicate a recognition of the steadily increasing danger of the situation, but to ensure that every conceivable step would be taken to aid in overcoming it.

It may be that during the course of this short part of the session the Prime Minister and his service ministers will indicate with clarity and with precision what more we should do; and I invite them to do so. But if the Prime Minister will tell the house that because of the necessity for secrecy, especially with respect to one aspect of this menacing situation, it is the view of the government that matters of high policy should not be divulged at this time, then I suggest that a statement to that effect should be made. The Prime Minister should make it clear that matters of high policy to deal with new and threatening menaces are under consideration by the government and will be revealed in due course. But unless some assurance is given I fear that the Prime Minister's message of yesterday will prove to be a great disappointment. I fear that it will be taken as additional evidence of lack of leadership. It must have brought cold comfort, not only to the members of the house but to the country generally.