

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: They were over, by conversation with the British representative, but they were not closed.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, yes, they were. They were resumed.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My right honourable friend takes that stand because he is prejudiced and it pleases him to take it.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: No; because a Minister of the Crown of Great Britain said they were over.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It was not the Minister of Air. He, on the 7th of July, said, "I have received an offer from the Canadian Government." I think that offer was based on a statement made on the 1st of July by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It was not. The statement I read was by Mr. Stanley. He said the negotiations were over.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My right honourable friend devoted a half hour of his speech to an apparent difference of opinion with the British Government in June of 1938. It seems to me that in order to make some constructive proposition to this House he should have swept aside all these matters. They were discussed on every platform before the people—

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: —and the people declared: "No. We are satisfied with the present Government." Now my right honourable friend says, "I am not looking for political preferment, I am not seeking responsibility, but I tell the leader of the Government that his Government must draw into their ranks men from all parties, so that the whole country will stand behind them." I tell him that most of those men, men of importance in the country, are working as dollar-a-year men on many of these boards, and that all the leading men in Canadian industry are at the disposal of the Government. When I look around the Council table, having myself no department to administer, I reflect that as an independent witness I am free to judge the actions of the heads of departments who form the Cabinet, and I am astounded at the amount of work which they regularly perform and which comes for examination before Council. I have described to you this evening a small part of their activities. It will be readily understood why I smile when I hear some self-appointed critics—of course, I am not thinking of my right honourable friend—in the press and elsewhere declare with an air of authority that the

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present Government is incapable of the task it is attempting. What marvellous leaders those self-appointed critics would be if the country only allowed them to settle all its problems and direct its war activities! Luckily for the country, the people have judged otherwise.

Hon. J. J. HUGHES: Honourable senators, the speech with which His Excellency the Administrator opened Parliament, and which we are now considering, naturally dwells at considerable length on the perturbed state of the world and the terrible wars now raging and threatened. As I stated in my brief remarks during the special session of Parliament in September last, this dreadful state of affairs did not come about by accident, for there is no such thing as blind chance. "Not a sparrow falls to the ground without your heavenly Father's knowledge and consent." Hence there is a cause, and the cause is in proportion to the results.

The last paragraph in the Speech from the Throne on the 25th of January last reads as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In all that pertains to the discharge of your responsible duties, may Divine Providence be your strength and guide.

And on the 16th of this month the Administrator says:

I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

These are solemn, pregnant words, addressed directly to the members of Parliament, and indirectly to the people of Canada, and I must assume that the men who penned them and the men who read them fully realized their importance. Now, who and what is this Divine Providence that is asked to be our strength and guide, and to bless us in our deliberations? If Christianity be true, it is not blind, impersonal force. It is the supreme, infinite, eternal Intelligence: the Creator and Preserver of all things, Who was manifested in the person of one of our race, the Lord Jesus Christ. This same Christ declared, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"; and at another time and in another place, "Without Me you can do nothing." As I see it, it is the denial and the wilful misapprehension of these transcendental truths that are the cause of all our troubles. In my feeble way I shall try to explain, and if Christianity be true the effort cannot be wrong. In this connection plain speaking is surely desirable.

Two nations, notably Russia and Germany, led by Stalin and Hitler, have nationally and officially denied Christ and His teaching;