

the better for any positive information, technical though it may sometimes be, that falls from the lips of members of this House. I may say also of the honourable gentleman from Mille Iles (Hon. Mr. Prévost), a highly cultured journalist of my province, that I am always delighted to hear his remarks, because both the matter and the form are excellent.

I desire to join with the honourable gentlemen who have spoken before me in assuring Their Majesties that they will be welcome among their Canadian subjects. I am quite sure that their reception in this country will be quite as warm as that which was extended to them by Great Britain's ally, France, last summer. The general opinion in Paris was that this young couple who adorn the Throne were particularly attractive to everybody because of their simplicity and charm. They have already conquered the hearts of all the members of the British family with whom they have been in contact, and they have won the esteem and admiration of all communities outside of Great Britain which they have visited. I am quite sure that in Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, they will be received with open arms.

The international situation in Europe—and, I might add, in Asia—is still quite beclouded. When the Rome-Berlin axis was proclaimed, whereby the Germans were allowed to invade Austria, one naturally wondered what payment Mussolini had been promised by Hitler for the assistance he was to receive from Rome. We all knew that Mussolini, a practical politician, would expect some return for the permission he had given the Germans to come as far as the Brenner Pass, which borders upon Italy. I felt that the compensation expected would be substantial, and, as I had a fair knowledge of the situation in northern Africa, I knew that Mussolini had his eye upon Tunisia, which I visited two or three years ago. A French newspaper stated that it was clear the Fuehrer had paid Italy with a blank cheque or draft on France. Mussolini's problem is to cash that cheque, and perhaps he will find that more difficult than it was for Germany to threaten to invade the Sudeten district.

The Italian policy of aggression seemed quite clear to all those who could read the newspapers. When the French Ambassador in Berlin, Mr. François-Poncet, was transferred to Rome, he was received not merely with coolness, but in a most unusual manner. In fact, he was told that he was not needed in Rome. We all knew, of course, that such a statement appearing in the Italian press could not have been made without the authorization

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

of the Italian Government. In order to frighten Great Britain while Italy was asking that her aspirations be allowed, her partner, Germany, announced a desire for parity with Great Britain in the matter of submarines, just as Mussolini had announced mobilization during the crisis of September last. To those who knew the game being played by Rome and Berlin it was evident that these were threats to Great Britain or France.

The question is, what will the morrow bring? The third ally, Japan, has lately become quite defiant, even towards the United States. Will Hitler and Mussolini decide upon a throw of the dice before Great Britain has fully re-armed, and risk their all during the present year? That is the question. The United States are arming in haste. The repeal of their Neutrality Act would be enough to sober the would-be aggressors.

It is the duty of Canada to strengthen its own defences. The Speech from the Throne explains the necessity of increasing the appropriations for defence in order to safeguard this country from danger of attack. I must say I was most surprised to hear my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) state with some vehemence that while he would not object if we spent millions here or there for defence, it was sheer hypocrisy to give the people the impression that this country could thereby be protected against assault, for everyone knew that Canada could not protect itself without co-operation. He declared the Government did not dare to say that it would co-operate with Great Britain for the protection of Canada. My right honourable friend at times uses harsh expressions which serve as headlines in friendly newspapers, but are quite beyond his sober judgment, I am sure. He must smile at times to see the effect of his big words on the press, or sections of the press, of this country.

The Government is organizing its defences to meet any emergency. It does not know what might be the circumstances it would have to meet. It does not know in advance with whom it would have to co-operate. All it knows is that it must protect this country against any attack; and attacks naturally would come from the Pacific or the Atlantic.

The right honourable gentleman did not state what would be Canada's obligations and those of Great Britain under an agreement which would have to be reached, as suggested in 1885 by Sir John A. Macdonald. He did not state what would be the measure of our co-operation. He did not state who would dictate the policy, which might lead to war. Does he expect that Canada will agree to dance to the tune of any British Government, be it Tory, Liberal, Labour or Socialist; that