

bers of the House of Commons at Westminster, that their faces burned with shame when they thought of the treatment which these countries had received, how they had been denounced as fascist, and how all the credit and even the help were now being given to those who had held their hands until Russia was invaded. I discussed this question a great deal with responsible men in Great Britain who knew what they were talking about, and I should like to pay my humble tribute to these gallant peoples who, when apparently everything was lost, fought and are still fighting. They seem now to be discredited and forsaken, but I hope they will not be forgotten by the Canadian people when they realize the part they played in winning the war.

I should like to close with a story that I was told in the House of Commons at Westminster which made a great impression on me. As I suppose all members know, the house itself is not very old. It is a part of the old palace of Westminster, of which Westminster Hall still stands. The office of the Empire Parliamentary Association is situated in Westminster Hall and I used to go there every day when I visited the House of Commons. I had to walk through Westminster Hall itself to get there. I had seen the hall as a boy but I was much more impressed with it now than I was then, possibly because I could compare my own puny efforts at building with the work of those old master builders. I noticed one of the old beams lying in a corner of the building. Members will probably remember that just before this war the roof of Westminster Hall was found to be unsafe owing to the borings of the death-watch beetle and the roof had to be restored. One of the members of the house showed me this old beam. There it was, honey-combed by the death-watch beetle. He told me this story. When this great hall was being built some eight hundred years ago the old builders decided to construct the finest roof in Europe. They said, "We shall have to have the finest oak timber in England, in order to build the finest roof." They searched all over England and finally they found what they wanted in a spot in Sussex and bought the oak from the owner of the land, who was then a member of the House of Commons, and out of that oak they built the roof of Westminster Hall. Eight hundred years later when they came to repair the roof the modern builders said, "We shall have to have the finest timber in England to build the new roof." Accordingly they searched all over England for the best timber, and finally they found it growing in the very same spot where their ancestors had found it eight hundred

[Mr. Jaques.]

years before. More than that, the land on which the oak grew belonged to a descendant of the owner of eight hundred years ago, and the present owner is also a member of the House of Commons. I thought it was a remarkable story from which we can draw a great lesson now. The lesson is this: When you come to build permanently you should always use local material. Those old builders had the faith and the courage to build for all time, and the roof they built stood for nearly a thousand years and would have stood for another thousand years had not the death-watch beetle bored its way into the very heart of the oak beams supporting the roof. When they decided to rebuild the roof they did not say, "We should have a new order of roof; we should have an alien roof made of alien materials"; they said, "We must have the finest English oak to build the finest English roof." And so the roof stands to this day, defying not only the elements but the blitz; and it will stand for another thousand years, a sublime monument to the skill and faith of those builders of old.

And so it is with our constitutional roof of British justice and liberty which our ancestors have taken centuries to build, in the faith that it would stand, and that Britons always would be free. To-day our British constitution is under attack from within and from without by the death-watch beetles of state socialism, fascism, communism and international finance-ism. We are told that we must have a new order, designed by aliens, an alien structure of alien materials, in place of our old and tested British constitution of justice and liberty. But, Mr. Speaker, we do not need a new order of alien design. Let us build on our old British foundations of liberty and justice which our ancestors laid down through the centuries. Let us destroy these alien death-watch beetles, these isms that would undermine our own foundations of freedom. We must repair our own Canadian structure. Let us renew our faith in our own ability to build, as did our ancestors to the end that there will always be a sovereign Canada of justice and freedom.

Mr. L. A. MUTCH (Winnipeg South): Although I address the house on the occasion of the annual budget debate, I do not imagine that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) would be grateful, although I am thankful to believe he would survive it, if I should suddenly at this time and in this place begin to discuss the question of money or the closely allied problems of finance which are so often a part of budget discussions. In the brief remarks which I intend to make to-night I propose rather to say something in a more