

In closing, I should like to quote Professor Jha, vice-chancellor of Allahabad university. This quotation was taken from the *Times of India* of December 30, 1938:

The future welfare of mankind depends on the increasing recognition of the truth that the principles of right action are identical for individuals as well as for states and that the philosopher alone can be trusted to lay down what these principles are.

To be universally resorting to gas masks and shelters underground; to be calmly preparing half a million beds for those who will be broken in war, as they are doing in England, while in our factories we fashion the instruments that will similarly devastate life elsewhere; to be doing all this when no one, statesman, soldier or civilian, is able to assert that the way of equity has been tried, seems to me a flight from both reason and common sense. We have become so naturalized in our insanities of hate, competition, unbrotherliness and injustice, that we are afraid of the sanity of planning, cooperation, brotherliness and justice. Could anything be more insane than the spectacle of half the world overfed and the other half underfed, with enough for everybody in our very hands? And yet we are afraid of the sanity of a just distribution. Is there anything more insane than dog-eat-dog competition? Yet we are afraid of the sanity of cooperation. The most insane thing in this insane world of ours is to be afraid of sanity.

Mr. L. D. TREMBLAY (Dorchester): Mr. Chairman, the debate to which we have been listening since Thursday last, when the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) enunciated to the house the views of the government on the international situation and explained with such great clarity Canada's position among the countries of the British commonwealth of nations, seems to me by far more important than any I have witnessed since I have had the honour of sitting in this chamber. Its importance lies in the fact that it deals with problems on which depend the happiness of every citizen and every family of Canada, in fact the very existence of our country and its people.

The present discussion has given me the comforting feeling that hon. members have exemplified the truth of the axiom that a man is as big as the cause he represents. To the dignity, the ponderation and the enlightened patriotism which the Prime Minister revealed in his masterly speech, the representatives of the people have responded with a frank, courageous and dignified expression of their own views. The general tenor of the discussion has luminously revealed, in my opinion,

[Mr. Rowe (Athabasca).]

the nobility and real superiority of the parliamentary institutions by which we are governed.

I may be pardoned, sir, for thus prefacing the remarks I have the honour to make by an expression of my appreciation of all hon. members who have so far taken part in the debate. Perhaps I may be also pardoned and understood if I express my admiration for the leader of the government. His generosity, broad-mindedness and deep humanity would qualify him to be a French-Canadian if he did not belong to another race equally endowed with these noble characteristics. While listening to him the other day, I could not help thinking of those peoples whose leaders obtain and maintain their popularity by their ability to plan and achieve the subjection of other peoples. A different ideal animates the leader of the Canadian government, an ideal which does him honour, a high ideal of which his people recognize the beneficent influence, the ideal to ensure in this world the peace promised twenty centuries ago to men of goodwill. To this task he has devoted his life, and in expounding the government's policy in international matters he has revealed once more to his fellow citizens his irrevocable will to pursue the accomplishment of his undertaking. We wish to assure him of our undying gratitude.

While listening on Friday last to my old comrade who has become the hon. member for Matapedia-Matane (Mr. Lapointe), I could not repress a feeling of deep emotion. Inoffensive in appearance, nervous in temperament, rather small in size, but gifted with a firm jaw and sparkling eyes, more than twenty years ago like thousands of other French Canadians young Arthur Lapointe—I may call him by name since he was not a member then—enlisted to fight against barbarism and for civilization. Those who have read his book "Soldier of Quebec" know what he went through. His experience was, with slight differences, that of all those of our generation who fought during the last war. I do not, however, wish to dwell upon the subject.

My point is this: We have been told, "You are fighting for civilization against barbarism; you are waging war against war; it is your noble task to bring to your brothers and sisters, to your families and to your country everlasting peace. If you win this war there will be no further wars, and those whom you leave in Canada, those whom you will perhaps never see again, will bless you for all eternity."

We believed those things, sir, and we went to war. Those who were spared by providence returned, happy to see again their dear Canada for which over there their hearts had thrilled in a way they had never thought possible before. Their eyes may have been dry when they landed on Canadian soil, but they sparkled with noble pride; for had they not fought for the most noble of causes? Had they not conquered glory with peace and freedom? In peace they would be able to resume their former tasks and live happily in the midst of their loved ones. They could perhaps even fulfil the dream, interrupted by their departure for abroad; they could get married and build a home. Now, Mr. Chairman, twenty years later, are those men who offered their lives in order to bring peace to the world, who bravely performed their duty as they saw it, and who, ever since, have modestly accomplished their duty as citizens and fathers, to be called upon to send their sons—and I have five—aboard to settle once more on the same battlefields the inextricable affairs of Europe? I say no, Mr. Chairman, and I render thanks to providence that the viewpoint of the leaders of the Canadian nation, and that of the Canadian people themselves has changed. Last Thursday the Prime Minister said this on the subject, as reported at page 2613 of *Hansard*:

The idea that every twenty years this country should automatically and as a matter of course take part in a war overseas for democracy or self-determination of other small nations, that a country which has all it can do to run itself should feel called upon to save, periodically, a continent that cannot run itself, and to these ends risk the lives of its people, risk bankruptcy and political disunion, seems to many a nightmare and sheer madness.

I assert without hesitation that I belong to that class which is also, I am firmly convinced, that of the immense majority of the Canadian people, and I believe from the bottom of my heart that the first duty of every citizen of this country is to Canada.

May I quote some further words of the Prime Minister as recorded at page 2613 of *Hansard*:

A strong and dominant national feeling is not a luxury in Canada, it is a necessity. Without it this country could not exist. A divided Canada can be of little help to any country, and least of all to itself. The national feeling has found political expression in the steady growth of self-government, at first in domestic, later in external affairs. It has stood the test and the strain of economic depression and of the local differences to which depression gives a temporary importance. We are and will remain Canadians, devoted, first and last, to the interests of Canada, but Canadians, I hope, who will be able to take a long range as well as a short range view of what Canada's interests require.

If it is true that a national sense is developing among Canadians, it is a matter for rejoicing, and I say, "So much the better for Canada." But that sense must be guided; it must be channeled; for it is a force that is capable of destroying as well as building up a nation. Thus, if it is confined to one's village, to one's county or to one's province, it is not true nationalism but rather a stunted nationalism. Our nationalism should be broad and generous; it should take account of the general interest of Canada and of all Canadians.

Allow me to quote the words of Reverend Father George Simard, dean of the faculty of theology of Ottawa university, whose booklet "Canada To-day and To-morrow" or, in French, "Le Canada d'aujourd'hui et de demain" is the best exposition there is of Canadian nationalism. The following is a translation:

Our federal state is a bilingual state, as is attested by section 133 of the British North America Act, which makes Canada juridically the country of all Canadians. This would be impossible if the provinces, unfederated, constituted so many separate political entities. It must be noted however that it is not the races that are federated in Canada. Their relations are much better than that. Both, as a result of the constitution, are joint owners of the soil and territory of the same country. Therefore our patriotism is Canadian; strictly and substantially it is one and the same in the hearts of French-Canadians and English-Canadians alike.

Twenty-two years ago a profound division endangered Canadian unity, because in the general panic it was forgotten that Canada was composed of two great races of different origin and viewpoint. To-day this reality is better understood, and in 1939 when we hear a Canadian of whichever race appeal to prejudice we have the impression that he is a rather rare bird. Ridicule will get him, in any event, but in the meantime it is the duty of all of us to help "ridicule" in its patriotic work.

Through my father and my college education I belong to that noble French-Canadian race which dwells peacefully in the valley of the St. Lawrence. It is a sober and industrious race, a race of believers, profoundly attached to their faith, their customs and their language; a proud race, proud of the discoverers, colonizers and evangelizers who implanted French civilization in this country, banishing the darkness of paganism and barbarism; a race of people deeply rooted in the soil of their ancestors, a Canadian race three centuries old.

My mother was of English descent. She belonged to that race which, in the words of