

*San Francisco Conference*

We are not going to stop the invention of lethal weapons. We are not going to stop the designing of new bombs. We are not going to stop the invention of better and more devastating explosives. We are not going to stop the invention of faster aircraft, or new weapons such as the flying bomb. But I do feel that one of the things the security council should do is pool all information with regard to the manufacture and invention of ordnance. If we do that we will know each other's weapons; we will stop trafficking in arms; we will prevent the publicity of arms competition, which has done so much to keep the world in a state of unrest.

Because I have been critical of some of the measures and proposals resulting from the Dumbarton Oaks meeting, it is not to be construed that I am opposing in any way the San Francisco conference. We cannot be perfectionists; perfectionism is the path to war. All government is compromise. Certainly all democratic government is compromise, the very fact of having a government and an opposition indicates that compromise. Because we compromise internally we must compromise externally. To go to San Francisco with rigid minds or fixed ideas is fatal. Let us take this last chance, for if we fail this time we perish—and Canada is likely to be the battlefield of the future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, to paraphrase Kipling, let us say to the delegation that goes to San Francisco: Do not look too good or talk too wise.

Mr. J. J. McCANN (Renfrew South): Mr. Speaker, in the discussion of the resolution before the house the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has asked for free expression of the different points of view of hon. members. There appears to be unanimity of opinion as to the desirability of holding a conference, and of preparing a charter for a general international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security, and to that end taking collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace, the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and bringing about by peaceful means adjustments or settlements of international disputes which may lead to breaches of that peace. This is one of the purposes of the conference.

I agree with the government's action in accepting the invitation to the conference, and believe that now is the time to make preparation for world security, rather than leave it, as after the last war, to be added as an appendage to the peace treaty. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. There must be

[Mr. Adamson.]

collective security, and the responsibility that any nation undertakes must be backed by power; because it has been amply demonstrated that no single nation of itself can ensure its own safety.

Personally I hope and believe that a workable arrangement for the maintenance of peace and the laying of foundations for world-wide social and economic justice can be achieved, if the free nations of the world show the same measure of good will and cooperation they have evidenced throughout the war. I hope, too, that the social agencies which were a part of the league of nation's set-up may be incorporated in the new set-up. I refer particularly to those agencies that had to do with the control of narcotics, the control of vice, and the standardization of drugs. Those agencies did remarkable work and accomplished much, and they should be continued and enlarged. Let me here pay a tribute to Doctor Nansen, a Nobel prize winner and great Norwegian physician who had charge of that particular part under the league of nations set-up.

Canada, a peace-time nation, has become a fighting world power. Let us maintain her position as a peace-time world power for the peace and security of the world. No doubt there are those who will advocate that Canada should line up with Britain and the commonwealth as one of the big three rather than take the position of having a voting power of her own. Should we follow such a course, much of what we have striven for and obtained under the Statute of Westminster would be thrown into the discard. We would once again revert to colonial status. I think we can continue to maintain our place in the British commonwealth of nations and yet at the San Francisco conference, and indeed at the peace conference, claim and take our place as one of the most important nations of the world and assert our position in that regard.

I have every confidence that our Prime Minister who will lead Canada's delegation will see to it that Canada's interests are protected. Our voting strength should be based on our contribution in men, arms, production and achievement in the present war. Our delegation should strive to that end and not be relegated to a position comparable with that of San Salvador or some other small nation whose only claim to a seat at the conference is that they have shown evidence of friendliness to the allied cause. Just as there has been a difference in the capacity of the different nations to contribute to the war effort, so too will there be a difference in their ability to contribute to peace.

But there are doubts in the minds of some citizens of this country as to the success of the