

These understandings, concluded before the entry of the United States into the war and which had to do with the development of the Alaska Highway, not only contributed to our own security against the menace of invasion but have had an enormous and determining influence on the general course of the war. When History will be written, the name of Canada and of its leader, Mackenzie King, will remain closely connected with the victory of the allies which we hope is now approaching.

These measures were taken in the best interests of our country and no one can deny that they were opportune and that they met the necessity of the circumstances. They seem to be simple and obvious accomplishments, but I ask if among all the leaders of the political parties of Canada, there would have been found a single man who would have had the courage to conceive and the skill to execute such policies at a moment when public opinion was not prepared for such energetic action.

In spite of a comfortable majority in the House of Commons, Mr. King's party reflects the divisions which exist in the country as a whole. He has never sought to conceal that our participation in the war and the grave decisions that we have had to take during four years to develop our war effort both at home and abroad has created divergence of views and has disturbed public opinion.

It was necessary to go into debt, to impose taxes and restrictions of all sorts to control the economic life of the country, to prevent speculation, to organize an army, a navy and an air force, and to maintain the highest level of efficiency.

All this demanded individual sacrifice and has put a test upon the unity of the nation. Each measure in its own way has its effect upon the future of Canada. All sorts of opinions have been expressed. There have even been some political leaders who, for their own ends, have tried to ridicule the war effort of our country and others who have tried to weaken it. Happily, these critics have contradicted themselves and they have not succeeded in shaking the confidence of the people in the Liberal party and its leader. There is no democratic government in the world today, which has received such complete and unanimous support as the present government under the leadership of Mr. King.

There is no people in the world who in the course of this war have better established their loyalty and demonstrated by their great contributions, their valour, their energy, their intelligence and their determination to take their place in the ranks of the free nations of the world.