

are proud. That this country should be found by a great military critic such as Mr. Baldwin is, to be a country that, as a result of its careful planning in cooperation with the British military authorities, is destined to become a major factor in the war, is as high a compliment as could be paid to any nation at a time like this. That, in a war such as that in which we are engaged, Canada may within a year become a major factor in this war, is a very high tribute indeed. We stated, at the outset, that we were planning for a long war, a war of three, possibly four years, as we were advised by the military authorities of the United Kingdom to do. If we had simply wished to win the first battle regardless of all else we might have directed all our energies to that end. It is what from some well known sources we were told we ought to do, hurry up, get multitudes of men to the other side, no matter how, get them over. You might win a first battle by such a method, but in the end you would most certainly lose the war. On the other hand by careful planning, by avoiding mistakes at the outset, by taking a long-range view instead of a short-sighted one, I believe this country is recognized to-day, in the eyes of the world, as a great force rapidly coming forward to do what the British government itself said we would do, if we put long-range plans into force, namely, make what may well be the decisive stroke for victory in the later stages of the war.

My hon. friend suggested that something should be said about Japan, something about Vichy, something about the situation in Ireland, and something about our relations with the United States. I intend to-night to touch on the latter subject at considerable length. With regard to Japan, Vichy and Ireland I think perhaps it would be just as well if I say no more this evening than what I intend to say to the house a little later on. I want to repeat what I said in speaking of the addresses that were made here on Friday last; I do not think that we can be too careful in this House of Commons about what any of us say with regard to other countries and their position at this time in the matter of war. We cannot be too careful with regard to what we say about Japan. It may sound very brave on our part here to be critical of Japan, to talk about the situation as my hon. friend did this afternoon, saying that he understood there was considerable trouble with the Japanese in British Columbia. That is not helping to win the war.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I did not say trouble; I said it had been reported to me that there was truculence on the part of Japanese nationals out there and the government should look after them.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Truculence on the part of Japanese nationals, yes. Does my hon. friend think those words are going to help in maintaining Canadian unity, to help in the very critical situation existing at this moment not between Japan and Canada, but between Japan and Britain, and between Japan and some other parts of this world? The situation in British Columbia has been receiving the most careful attention of the administration. If there is an attitude on the part of any Japanese that has to be looked after there is need equally, I may say, for great caution on the part of some people in that province not to be over-zealous in their attacks on the Japanese at the present time. With all the seriousness of which I am capable I say that words spoken lightly here, however well intentioned they may be, may be read and interpreted in other countries in ways entirely different from those in which they may be read and understood here. In Canada we know when a statement is being made for a political purpose. We know, too, who the individual is who makes the statement, and whether he is given to saying things just as they come into his mind, or whether they are said after careful thought and reflection. We know, too, whether they are being said by a critical opposition, or on the responsibility of a government. But, in Japan, the morning press with its headlines does not interpret words spoken in the parliament of Canada in that way. And the same is true with regard to the situation existing in France at the present time. And the same is true with regard to critical conditions which may exist between Great Britain and Ireland. I want to tell the house very frankly that this government will take any and every step it can take to help heal any breach and to prevent any wound becoming worse than it is, but we will do nothing we have reason to believe will make a bad situation in any country or between any two countries worse than it is at the present time.

Now I come to the report of the Rowell-Sirois commission. I want to thank my hon. friend for his expression of agreement with the view of the administration that it is desirable to have a conference between the provinces and the dominion to consider recommendations contained in the report. I do not know that I could go the length he has gone in suggesting that this ought not only to be a conference between governments, but should be a conference at which not only the governments in office would be represented but at which oppositions, chambers of commerce, boards of trade and the like, if I understood him aright, would meet as well in a great round-table discussion. I am afraid