

*War Appropriation*

opinion that French-Canada is responsible for preventing a total war policy as it should long ago have been adopted by the government of this country.

A more effective answer than comparative statistics, however, would be articulate leadership from an outstanding French-Canadian in favour of complete national service in Canada. Even for home defence, without insisting that every enlisted man should be liable for military service overseas, national service has to come in Canada. The present opportunist policy will almost certainly otherwise result in chaos.

It is to the credit of Jean Francois Pouliot that he is demanding a more comprehensive policy of home defence. He has urged the construction of military highways through strategic territory east of Quebec where the lines of communication are at present very slender. As a Canadian, however, the member for Témiscouata is too modest.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. POULIOT: I should not have read that.

He could speak on the need of more effective defence measures in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and elsewhere as well as on the St. Lawrence river front. This form of leadership would put French-Canada's position in a new light. It would help to show that there is true Canadian vision as national in outlook in the Laurentian country as it is in Toronto, Calgary or Vancouver.

This is something to think about. The other day I quoted a statement by the Minister of National War Services, appearing in the *Ottawa Journal* of Friday, April 3, 1942, to the effect that the Canadian army was the most mobile of all the allied armies. Most mobile, yes; because an all-out war has been advocated and our army is going out of this country, so that we have nothing left here. All-out war—all outside Canada.

A member of this house, the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Claxton), made an address in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and this was referred to in the well known paper, the *New York Times*, of March 22, 1942. The headline is:

Asserts criticism has war time limit.

Brooke Claxton, at Williams conference, calls excess detraction "pure poison."

Canada's efforts cited.

I have no objection down to there, but this is what I do object to:

We cannot afford to fight in North America, dominion parliamentarian warns.

Imagine! If the enemy comes here, we must surrender at once. That is what he said; that is what is reported in the largest paper on this continent, perhaps the largest paper in the whole world. We cannot afford to fight! Is that not an invitation to the enemy? It is here in the *New York Times*. The five-minute rule should have been applied to his speech.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

Mr. MUTCH: Read it all.

Mr. POULIOT: I will send it over to my hon. friend and he can read it. My time is valuable. I asked the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mackenzie King) on February 16 if he could give any guarantee that this country would not be attacked before the end of this war. He replied that he could not give such a guarantee without major reflection, and of course the guarantee was not given. It could not be given. My idea of defence is the proper protection of the shores of this country. No Canadian, no member of this house should be allowed to go outside this country and say that it is impossible to fight to repel an invader who is bold enough to come here. The enemy who dares to attack Canada can be repelled only if we have an army here. Otherwise we shall not be able to repel an army which is well-equipped. You cannot do that with your fists, even if you are a champion prize-fighter. We must have a trained and well-equipped army.

The figures we have been given lead us to believe that this country is not defended as it should be. Unless we have some more information about it, I will not cease to insist upon having proper defence in Canada in order to protect our people, our country and our homes. On March 3 the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) stated in a broadcast that our enemies had their eyes set on our country. The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) said the same thing on March 6 in Toronto; he stated that we were exposed to attacks from the enemy. On March 9 the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) stated in the house here that it would be a miracle if we won this war. On March 13 the Minister of Justice warned us that the nazis eye Canada. Captain Maurice Burke, at the conference of the association of children's aid societies, said "it cannot happen here" is held too prevalently. He said it was undermining belief reflected among men and women all over Canada. We are not concerned about that!

What did the Prime Minister of Australia do? On March 14, Mr. Curtin made a stirring appeal. He said that his country was the last bastion between the west coast of America and the Japanese. The *Toronto Telegram* of March 25 said that the U-boats may try raiding the St. Lawrence in the summer. I made reference to this dispatch not long ago, but now I hold in my hand the page from the *Evening Telegram* of March 25. The interview in question covers a whole column. It is headed:

Three services defending maritimes ready for visits by Hun craft, is assurance.