

mere ipse dixit, could remain out of a war like that. Of course, we should have less territory to defend. But what about the belligerent? He would not be prevented from attacking any Dominion simply because that Dominion happened to say that it was not at war. If the enemy decided to do so, it could try to take possession of that Dominion's territory, whether the people living there considered themselves to be at war or not." Suppose during the last war we had folded our arms and said, "We are neutral—we are not fighting." What would have prevented Germany from coming here and annexing this country? And, let me tell honourable members, I have good authority for stating that had Germany won the war Canada is the first country she would have annexed. One part of the Empire cannot say, "We are at war," and the other part say, "We are not at war." There is only one British Empire, and it is the greatest Empire the world has ever seen. The Roman Empire, vast in its day, pales before it and looks small. We should be proud to be a part of that great Empire. The old German colony in South-West Africa—a few Germans are still there—was mandated to South Africa. In case of another war the people there would not say they were neutral. No, this Empire must be united. One part cannot stay out of the fight while the other parts are fighting. No hostile belligerent is likely to consent not to attack a defenceless country.

Hon. J. J. HUGHES: Honourable members, a few weeks ago I read in a newspaper certain dispatches which had attracted my attention. The nations of the world, I think over seventy, led by Great Britain, were doing their best to isolate the civil war in Spain. A proposal was made to patrol the Spanish coast and the frontier between Spain and Portugal. Portugal, in exercise of her sovereign rights, at first objected to any foreign control of her boundary. However, after some consideration, she consented, but only on condition that Great Britain should be the patrolling power. All the other nations accepted the arrangement. So far as my reading of history goes, there never was another such tribute paid to a nation's honour and integrity. I am not inclined to be boastful—I like neither a boastful man nor a boastful nation—but I must confess that when I read those dispatches I thrilled with justifiable pride.

If the nations of the world have so much confidence in Great Britain, surely we should not doubt her honour. We are bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh. We cannot be fair-weather friends. That rôle would be more than cowardly; it would be the most dis-

honourable that any nation could play. We must be with the Empire in foul weather as well as in fair.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: The world of late years has become very small. The conquest of the air and great scientific discoveries and inventions have made the most widely separated nations virtually next-door neighbours. The Prime Minister of Great Britain, a short time ago, stated that the frontiers of Britain were on the Rhine. I do not think that was a boast; if it were, I should object to it. He is not the type of man to boast. Conversely, the frontiers of Germany are on the Thames. Modern transportation has brought the nations of the world close together, and we cannot isolate ourselves even if we wish to.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: It has been stated this afternoon that Canada occupies a very advantageous position in the world. Why? Because we are part of the British Empire—

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: —and because we are on this North American continent. But that does not relieve us from doing our duty. He who has power and influence has corresponding responsibilities. Every individual has responsibilities.

Hon. Mr. MOLLOY: Will my honourable friend allow me a word?

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: Yes, sir.

Hon. Mr. MOLLOY: I am afraid the honourable gentleman from King's (Hon. Mr. Hughes) is taking an unfair advantage. When British Empire interests and Canadian interests are vitally affected, then we will take our part, and a very decided part. But I say that in every war that may take place in Europe it does not fall to the lot of Canadians to go to anybody's rescue. When Great Britain or any other country on its own responsibility carries on a war of aggression, why should the honourable gentleman weep? We have no obligation to fight on either side unless the interest of Canada is vitally affected.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: I am not quarrelling with my honourable friend's remarks.

Hon. Mr. MOLLOY: I do not want my honourable friend to put into my mouth words which I did not utter.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: I appeal to the House. Now I have to refer to my honourable friend. I had not intended doing so, but now I have