

Mr. ROCH PINARD (Chambly-Rouville): Mr. Speaker, it is quite right to assert that this critical period in the history of humanity through which we are now passing requires from public men a deeper sense of responsibility. A violent and sharp evolution is now shaking the peoples of the world, and through all that a tired world is trying to find its way; therefore, all decisions must be considered with shrewdness and perspicacity, and hasty decisions might provoke fatal consequences. Our country in particular, whose noble and generous efforts have excited the admiration of the whole civilized world finds itself now at extremely important cross-roads. The wise and level-headed men who presided over our administration have deserved and have gained the people's support, and that is proof of sound judgment on the part of the people. It is also a manifestation of confidence in our government.

The reputation of our country has improved and grown for many reasons, and it is now the duty of Canada to gather the fruits of its toils, efforts and sacrifices. It will be to the glory of this government to have enabled the nation to take its place with confidence and determination on the international scene. The reputation of our country has been strengthened and ennobled in the blood of her sons on the battlefields of the whole world. The name of Canada has become symbolic everywhere, in Europe as in the Pacific, on the beaches of Dieppe, as in Italy, in Holland as in Germany, with the words, courage, bravery and heroism.

I respectfully bow before the graves of those who died, and their ashes should remain burning in the soul of the Canadian nation. To those who fought in all theatres of war this grateful country owes and offers the help that their toils have earned and that their sacrifices have deserved. It is also of great importance not to forget those who have been stricken by sorrow, the families mourning those who are absent; and I am grateful to our government which did not forget them and which has supplied them with due assistance by means of generous and effective legislation.

Yes, the name of Canada has been exalted in the sacrifices of her sons, in the blood of her heroes and also in the sorrows of the afflicted at home. So far as those who stayed in the country are concerned, if their effort was more discreet, it has all the same contributed to a great extent to the good renown of our nation.

The tools manufactured by our workers, the products cultivated by our farmers, and also the supplies our government has been distributing and is still distributing to the hungry nations of Europe—all this, I say, has added

[Mr. Blackmore.]

to the prestige and the high reputation of Canada. It is also owing to the united efforts and toils of all that our country has become an important power which may, with authority, have its voice heard in the international councils. This proud and powerful voice of our nation was heard with eloquent conviction in the deliberations which were held at San Francisco during the months of April, May and June last, and which ended with the signature of the charter of the united nations on June 26.

During the last session an important debate was held on the question of sending a Canadian delegation to the conference of the united nations, and there were voices in this house which raised protests against the participation of Canada in those historic discussions. Some of those voices expressed the opinion that conferences of that kind were always useless and that the decisions arrived at could be of no profit or advantage whatsoever to the Canadian community; and yet, Mr. Speaker, these were the same voices which on many occasions uttered strong protests against the colonial remains which we still have in this country. They were the same voices which wanted a greater recognition of our privileges as a free nation in the British commonwealth.

What a strange attitude! When it is given to our country to set foot in the field of world discussions; when it is so urgent to participate freely in those noble deliberations for the preparation of the future of our nation; when, finally, all the other nations are uniting in a common effort to find remedies for the evils of the world, our country, which has devoted all its energies to assure the maintenance of those privileges and rights so dear to every free man, would stay in the background and refuse to express her opinions! How strange indeed that it should be the same persons who denounced our participation in the conflict, who now deny our country the right to work for the prevention of these wars whose horrors and evils they so gladly talk about!

I am proud not to belong to such a group, for, in spite of many mistakes and errors, in spite of the interests and intrigues which constantly try to influence its decisions and judgments, in spite of prejudices and weaknesses, I still have faith in international justice, and above all I believe in free discussion of the numerous problems of international relations because it is indispensable to good human intercourse.

Moreover, I am proud that our government deemed it expedient to send to San Francisco her front-rank men, men of good will like our