

NOT A CENT FOR RELIEF TO A CERTAIN CLASS
OF UNEMPLOYED, THAT ARE EMPLOYABLE

I am writing this as if I were talking to some particular person. I believe the supposed conversation would make an excellent foundation for a speech. It would be an opportunity for a new M.P. really to do something and say something, outside of what is ordinarily expected from a new private member taking part in a debate on unemployment, to justify himself to his constituents for electing him.

In the first place, I would start out by saying that there should be no unemployment problem whatsoever; that Hitler had given Canada the solution a long time before England declared war on Germany. It was an opportunity, Heaven-sent, to a government that was faced with a difficulty which was difficult to overcome except by the dole. I would point out that it was the duty of every citizen of a country of sound mind and body, between the ages of eighteen and sixty, unmarried or married, or with dependents, to do his utmost to defend his country to the utmost of his strength and capacity, if that country's existence was threatened or the liberty and freedom of its people placed in jeopardy. That was a citizen's bounden and first duty. It was not a matter of free will. It was an obligation. As soon as that danger threatened, and was palpably and uncontrovertibly present, then the obligation of seeing that the citizens' duty was performed became the duty of the Government to undertake that it was performed.

Chamberlain at Munich knew that eventually war was inevitable. There was a cause for war then, judged by all the standards of justice, through breach of good faith and promises made and unfulfilled, and above all through a flagrant infringement of international law, wrongly called a law. To Chamberlain's everlasting credit, he kept his head and used exceptional good judgment. It reminds one of the Tunney-Dempsey fight "of the long count." Tunney took his time in getting up from a lethal punch, started sparring and running away till he got his second wind. Had Chamberlain listened to the hot heads then, the war would have been a massacre for the Allies. The delay and sparring for time was what Chamberlain wanted, and got. It was then Hitler "missed the bus". It was then also that Canada should have said, "Ready, aye ready, England", and at once got ready to put her house in order and prepared for a world conflict that was unavoidable.

Instead of that, in spite of warnings sounded from every side, the Government rocked itself into a state of complacency from which it was only awakened by "the colossal disaster of Flanders". What really can Canada say to Holland, Denmark and Belgium for throwing up the sponge, when in that glorious unit of the B.E.F. from Europe there were no Canadian troops involved? The Monroe Doctrine and the broad Atlantic, sovereign rights and constitutional autonomy were good subterfuges, excuses and alibis for our culpable inactivity, but were it not for the power and might of the British Navy and that indomitable French Army, the broad Atlantic would have been as narrow as the Strait of Northumberland, the Monroe Doctrine nothing but a myth, and sovereign rights and constitutional autonomy about as unreal and non-existent as lakes in the Sahara Desert, that are only mirages.

These obstacles to our invasion existed only in complacent minds. Let us be done with recriminations, no matter though it is difficult to forget how puerile our war effort has been up to now. Let the dead past bury its dead for the time being. Let us be up and doing. Let us hope it is not too

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