

engaged in selling to the opposing government munitions and materials of war to be used in fighting against Great Britain. It seems to me that the least we could do under circumstances of that kind would be to break off trade relations with the opposing power.

Probably, as is so often the case with extreme views, both of them are wrong, and the true course for this country to pursue lies somewhere between them. I do not know but what the only thing for us to do at the present time is to follow a policy somewhat similar to that which Great Britain appears to be following in Europe—to take no definite stand, but to wait upon events and finally, if and when a crisis arises, decide what attitude we shall take in that crisis in the light of circumstances existing at that time, and in the meantime to continue our support of the League of Nations. As the gracious Speech says, let us use all our endeavours to try to make it more effective than it has proved to be in the past.

In the field of international matters one thing, I hope, is certain, and that is that the people of this country have no sympathy for the totalitarian state, whether it call itself Nazi or Facist or Communist. We believe in the rights of democracy and the rights of the individual. We can have no part nor lot with political systems which treat their nationals as so many sheep to be led to the slaughter for the greater glory of the state; which indulge in dangerous international adventures in order to enhance the prestige of the reigning dictator, or for the purpose of diverting the minds of their unfortunate nationals from their economic and political miseries.

The gracious Speech refers to the extremely satisfactory relations existing between the nations of the North American continent, and to the visit this summer to Canada of the President of the United States. Those relations have been still further improved during the last few weeks by the Pan-American Conference, and by the visit of the President of the United States to that conference; and I think all those who have read the speech which the President there made in defence of the democratic regime and of the rights of free speech will agree that Canada stands four-square behind the sentiments which he then expressed—noble sentiments nobly expressed.

Honourable members of the Senate, in moving the resolution which stands in my name I can only conclude by thanking honourable members for the kindness and forbearance with which they have listened to me.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN.

Hon. GEORGES PARENT (Translation): Honourable senators, I do not know whether the opportunity of moving or seconding the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne may be called good fortune. Nearly thirty-two years ago I had a similar opportunity, and in 1905 I had to perform, in the House of Commons, the same duty which I have to carry out to-day. Therefore this coincidence, if I may use the expression, necessarily reminds me that I am no longer a young man, and if my enthusiasm lacks somewhat in intensity, it might nevertheless be said, as in the song: "My youth is gone, and still I sing."

Having been involved for so many years in political events which I have lived through and been called upon to fight against or defend more often than I wished, probably I may be permitted—at least I hope so—to make a few general observations that can be drawn from the Speech from the Throne.

My task will be all the more pleasant owing to the fact that the honourable senator from Inkerman made it easier by the eloquent speech to which we have just listened.

During the parliamentary recess our Canadian homeland has heard hardly anything but words of peace, such as those which were exchanged on the occasion of the memorable visit of the President of the United States, who was welcomed by the Canadian authorities with all the respect due to his high office.

Conditions, however, are not the same in Europe. Soon after the victory achieved by powerful Italy under conditions which on several occasions gave rise to fear of a more serious conflict, there broke out in Spain a most dreadful civil war. It is said to be the first clash between two principles which we look upon as being extreme: Communism and Fascism. Such a spectacle gives the democracies some food for thought. At a distance it appears to us that these two rigorously contracted forms of government deprive the peoples, the classes, and individuals of all their liberties. Under the dictatorial regime the right of initiative becomes the privilege of a military or revolutionary oligarchy. And evidence is not lacking that these two manifestations of racial pride have become a real danger for the whole world.

During this period of great international stress it is indeed a relief to witness the wisdom, the patience, and the diplomacy displayed by the British Government. But it was in a realistic and heart-breaking tragedy that England showed herself still greater in her moral strength than in her imperial power. On that particular subject we had better follow the discretion used in the Speech from