

carefully considered by some body having the time, the capacity and the knowledge to see how such services could be usefully employed. If we fail to do this we will neglect a great reservoir of ability, capacity and energy that might be made available to this country.

I want to make one or two observations with reference to our military effort. As I have said, in the early part of the last war I had some experience with the Canadian forces, and I should like to point out one or two matters of which I have personal recollection and which I think should be noted now. If you have—and I think you have—capable military men who know their profession and who are experts in it, put your military affairs in their hands and leave them there. Keep them clear of outside influences; keep them clear of any attempted political influence. It is a terrible thing to send young men to war, if we should do so, and it is only fair that we should conscientiously try to build for them the finest type of military organization with the most capable officers it is possible to find. I know military men quite often think politicians are stupid; I suppose sometimes politicians think military men are stupid, and there may be a degree of truth in both thoughts. But if I may go beyond the government to my military friends I would like to emphasize this: Keep open the military mind. Do not let it become sealed with army acts, regulations and orders. Keep it open. Canada has genius; she has initiative. That genius and initiative can be utilized in military organizations and activity. This war will open wide opportunities for new and effective ideas, and I suggest that we be careful to see that where such exist, full advantage be taken of them.

To the military I also recall the well known saying: there are no bad battalions; there are only bad commanding officers, and our youth in any military effort they may make, regardless of precedent, regardless of regulations and orders, are entitled to the most efficient and able officers the Dominion of Canada can find. In the last war, Mr. Speaker, they did not start with promotion from within the forces, and many a man served for a long time while, time after time, men junior to him with no service came over and took the place to which he was entitled. Later that was changed. Out of the change developed that wonderful fighting machine, the Canadian corps.

I say to the military: let it be known that the way to go places in the Canadian army and the Canadian forces is by entering at the front door and working your way up through

merit. Build on that basis and you will start to build a fine and efficient fighting machine, similar to that which was built in the last war.

One other thought and I shall have finished with reference to this phase of the matter. In the last war it was six months from the time we enlisted until we went to France. During a considerable portion of that time we were trained in England. I suggest that the training can be done in Canada. I say it should be done in Canada, and that we can build here a well rounded out and efficient fighting force, to use as, when and where we think it should be used.

I had hoped it would not fall to my lot as a member of the house to have to cast my vote for measures which might involve the death or wounding of any Canadian boy. That hour has possibly come. To justify any action I may take or any vote I may cast, I am conscious of the necessity of being prepared to do what I might thereby ask others to do. It is a far cry back to 1914. At that time my age and my health permitted me to enter by the front door of a recruiting office; I am not so sure, but I think they will still permit me to do so. However I do submit to the government, and particularly to the Minister of National Defence, that if I am to justify the vote I may have to cast, it should, as it has the power to do, accord me and others an opportunity to justify that serious responsibility by sharing in the dangers and risks to which we may submit others. Then, sir, it is up to us. Subject to that, I never had a clearer sense of direction in the matters before us, a more resolute determination or a more peaceful conscience. In recent days, having in mind the magnitude of the forces involved and the meaning of all that is going on, I have asked myself many times—and I am not sure whether or not I quote correctly: Who lives, if England dies? Who dies, if England lives? Yes, and who lives if France dies; who dies if France lives?

On another occasion in this chamber I had occasion to make a statement with which I shall close my observations to-day. I ask the house to remember, I ask the people of Canada to remember—yes, I ask the world, and especially Hitler to remember—that because of the things England stands for, because of the forms of life she has been largely responsible for bringing into the world, and maintaining within the world; for those things and her part to-day in this world struggle, untold millions of people without the British common-