

the press in British Columbia in connection with the removal of Japanese from the coast, I was wondering if, some day soon, the Prime Minister would make an official statement regarding the matter, as many of us, many of the people of British Columbia, are in doubt as to what is going to happen.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I will try to meet the wishes of the people of British Columbia by giving the fullest possible information with respect to the working out of the government's policy in relation to the Japanese in the province. What may be the best moment to make the statement I am unable to say offhand. Perhaps, meanwhile I shall have a chance to confer with my hon. friend. I will see that the statement is made in due course.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

KIRKLAND LAKE STRIKE—PROPOSALS FOR SETTLEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): On Friday the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) made inquiry with reference to the situation at Kirkland Lake. The acting minister said that he would have some information on the question on Monday. I wonder if he is prepared to give the house that information.

Hon. N. A. McLARTY (Secretary of State): Yes. As suggested by the hon. member for Cape Breton South, I did make inquiries, and the Minister of Labour did furnish me with the information desired by the hon. member for Vancouver East. I am advised that the minister has received various communications from union officials which at first he regarded as accepting the proposals, but more recent advices indicate that certain qualifications of the procedure are requested. No formal reply has been received from the mine operators.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, January 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Alphonse Fournier for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we are met here again, at the beginning of the third session of this parliament, under conditions which stagger and appal our thoughts and imagination. Literally the whole world is at war, and we as Canadians are, by free choice and inclination, belligerents in the most momentous conflict in the world's history.

Since we parted in November last, the world has moved on from one tragic event to another in such quick succession as to well-nigh appal the most stout-hearted, and to cause all of us to search our minds and our hearts in an effort to comprehend the meaning and the implications of total war, which now has involved not only the western world but the eastern as well, and threatens to engulf us all.

On a quiet Sunday in December, while most of us were endeavouring to enjoy a day of rest after a week of anxiety over the situation in Russia and Libya, came the treacherous and shattering attack on Pearl Harbour. What an hour of crisis in the world's history! What an hour of crisis for the people of the United States, their government still dealing in good faith with the government of Japan, in an earnest effort to avoid the extension of hostilities to the far east! And what an hour of crisis for this Canada of ours! Living side by side with the United States, we are conscious that every step taken on the part of the axis powers brings the war that much nearer to this nation.

The government acted promptly in the formal matter of declaring war. It did not wait to call parliament. It pursued the correct constitutional practice and assumed the responsibility for its action. That is responsible government under our system and practice.

Did the government have a mandate to declare war on Japan? It did not. It did not require a mandate. Knowing the situation, it assumed the responsibility which, by every principle of responsible government, belongs to representative government, and went through the formality of declaring war on Japan, trusting that parliament and public opinion would sustain its action.

Now that the whole world is at war, now that Canada is at war with all the axis powers, now that we are endangered along with our neighbour on the west coast, this country must face the whole position realistically, and begin for the first time to wage total war with total effort. We have professed to be waging total war. We have accomplished much since September, 1939. But we have never even up to this minute really waged total war. The Prime Minister has on many occasions preached the doctrine of total war, but, he, more than any other man in Canada, has found himself cabin'd, cribb'd, confined, by his own commitments.

The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) not so many months ago, uttered a stirring challenge in these eloquent words:

I believe we shall win, not simply because we say so, but because Canada, along with the other democracies, will stop at nothing which