

*Defence of Canada Regulations*

the committee never held a single meeting from September, 1938, to January 19, 1939, and none from their appointment until after Munich on September 28, 1938. At that time they had before them order No. 531 of the privy council, dated March 14, 1938, and after that they did nothing until the war broke out.

I assert that the responsibility for these regulations is not on this house, but on the government, just as is the responsibility for the discussion of dependants' allowances, yet at the war session both matters were passed over with hardly anything at all being said about them. I can say of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) that since I came here in 1921 he has been most polite to hon. members in connection with the legislation of his department, and he must not interpret my remarks as any personal criticism of himself—far from it. Everybody wishes to support him in this battle of nerves. Speaking as a past chairman of the police commission of Toronto I can say that on the whole we had the utmost cooperation from the justice department and in general from the government. My action in raising this matter during the minister's estimates last year must be regarded as a criticism not of himself but of the way in which the government are administering the trust of protecting the people in this grave crisis.

The only question in this debate, as I see it, for the house to consider is, are these regulations necessary for the safety of Canada and her allies? If the government tell the people that they are, no matter how drastic those regulations may be, I believe the government will receive the unanimous support of all right thinking people in this country. All we need to know is that they are absolutely necessary to protect us from the ravages of the notorious fifth column and from the sabotage which has wrecked so many small nations in Europe.

On January 25, 1940, I had a motion on the order paper asking that a committee be appointed to investigate the anti-ally propaganda in Canada, also the Anglo-French phobia and the attacks made on the allies by cheap United States papers and foreign radio. One had only to go through the streets of the larger cities throughout Canada to see the amount of this trash being sold, the product of the cheap pro-German gutter press, containing attacks on our brave allies in these critical times. During last session and the session before I called the attention of the government in this house to this matter and asked that some of these papers be banned and refused the use of the Canadian mails. I brought this matter up during the very week

[Mr. Church.]

of the visit of their majesties. The attacks which these pro-German United States papers made upon the sovereign, our institutions and the British connection, were disgraceful. Yet nothing was done to shut them out of Canada.

About two years ago a committee, known as the Dies committee of the senate, was appointed at Washington to investigate anti-American propaganda. They held a number of important sessions for this purpose, and so much evidence was obtained of German propaganda in the United States that the senate was called upon to act. Senator Nye, co-author of the neutrality act, said that nothing the kaiser did in the great war would compare with the sending by Britain and Canada of lecturers and professors and others to the United States to drag America into the present war, and there was some discussion as to what type of regulation should be adopted to deal with activities there of this kind. The subject was raised in the British parliament, and there were many newspapers which discussed the question from one point of view or the other. When it came before the Dies committee at Washington after the outbreak of the war, the chairman was asked to tell the committee who were these people who had come from Canada and Great Britain as Senator Nye said, but he could not name a single individual who had been sent by the British government. The names of some professors and others from Canada were mentioned as upholding the pacifist side; a few of them were connected with the universities of this country. I believe it would be better if the government were to trust the daily press of Canada and let them have a free hand, as they did in 1917, when little or no trouble was caused. So far, as in the great war, the daily and weekly papers of Canada have risen splendidly to the situation.

Some of the articles of certain United States columnists republished by chains in Canada are open to criticism, as containing only half truths. Some of them are none too friendly to the cause of the allies, and attack the British cabinet. Howard Ickes, Hon. secretary of the interior at Washington, has referred to them as "calumnyists". Some of these articles should be the subject of our amended regulations. They would not be tolerated in the last war.

Has the situation not changed since last January? I say it has. Although I had a motion on January 25 and also on May 16 along the lines of appointing a committee to investigate anti-ally propaganda in Canada, I believe the situation has entirely changed