

Englishmen were glad to endure the black-out, but they endure it because they were told, and it is true, that it was good for the safety of all.

I came back from Britain with some impressions, the strongest of which was the love of king, flag and country shown by those people. They do not speak about aggression. They speak about preparing their own defences, right there. One cannot find anyone in Britain who has not uppermost in his mind the defence of the island. That was quite an example for Canadians, and especially French-Canadians. Loving one's country, being ready to sacrifice one's life and fortune to help the community as a whole—this, applied in my country and my province, would be a great thing. In this country we may be of different races and religions, but we all believe in the freedom of British institutions. We believe, too, that in this parliament we may speak freely.

The second impression I gained was the tolerance shown by public men for each other. They criticize one another, of course, but one public man never doubts the loyalty of another. They do not impute motives; they do not doubt the sincerity of their opponents in public life.

Another point which struck me was their familiarity with the situation in Canada. That is why we read and hear from Britishers words of praise of our war effort. Lastly, I found that the history of French-Canadians and the people of Quebec is well known in Britain. They know exactly our past history. They know what we think of the British system. They know that we believe in their fair play. They know that in my province many people do not want to have our constitution amended in this parliament, but prefer going over the seas, where questions may be discussed far away from the seat of trouble. They know all those facts. Moreover, to my surprise, I did not attend one function where those sitting to my right and left did not speak to me in French. They insisted on doing so. I tried to speak English to them, but they always came back with French.

I reached England in the company of my good friend the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar. He was born there, and upon arrival went home to see his own people. In our party also there was the hon. member for Brantford City, who travelled through Scotland, where the name of Macdonald is well known. Then there was the hon. member for Lethbridge, whose father was born in England, and the hon. member for Rosedale, who had been in England on many occasions. In the party was also the hon. member for Parry Sound who has made part of his fortune in Great Britain, through his appearances before

the privy council. These men seemed to know everybody over there, while I expected to be a stranger. After a few days, however, I saw that all these people were my friends, and I have come back to Canada with another opinion of the English-speaking people. Do not think that they showed us the things they did not want us to see. The trip was well organized; they told us what they wanted us to hear. But they did it so nicely that we came back elated with the trip.

What are the chief criticisms against the government with regard to Canada's war effort? I read the papers while in England, and I know the criticisms made over there, against their government. Sometimes I thought they were worse than the criticisms made against this government. But I say this: In this country, do not sneer at national unity. It is the greatest need of our time. People who do not believe in national unity are not working for the best interests of their country. Have hon. members ever visualized this country invaded by the foe? We have read the papers. We read a statement made two days ago by Mr. LaGuardia to the effect that air raids on coastal towns were imminent. Four ships have been sunk off the Atlantic coast of the United States. Two ships have been sunk off our own Canadian coast.

Why, we are in danger—imminent danger—if we believe what we read in the papers, and the statements made by people. I can think of some day when we may be fighting on our own soil against the foe. When that day comes, do you want a united country? Do you want the French and English peoples going forward hand in hand against the foe, or do you want machine guns pointed against one part of the population by the other part? Just think: if you are working in the interests of Canada, you work for national unity.

In a moment or two I shall revert to the French language, but before concluding my observations in English, I wish to state from my place in the House of Commons that the 3,500,000 French-Canadians in my province are asked to make one of the greatest sacrifices they have ever been called upon by their country to make. In the speech from the throne we are asked for national unity and we are asked to consent to releasing the government from its pledges made to the country in the last election. We are asked to say to the government: "If in your judgment necessity arises, you may be free of the promise you made to the people of this country"—one which was not contradicted even by our opponents—"that there would not be compulsory selective service for overseas."