

across the Atlantic represents the imperialist time and looks like defence of the British empire rather than the defence of Canada or Canadian interests. Who will decide the use of Canadian troops overseas? Who will decide when they are to go and where they are to go? These questions touch the realities of the problem in Quebec. The more Canada insists on having a voice of her own in the joint allied councils, the more she gets away from the old military tradition that her part is just to offer troops for Britain to use where Britain wants them, the easier it will be to bridge the gulf between Quebec and the other provinces. This is not a new issue in Canada; it dates from 1763. All that Quebec means by the "no" vote is that she does not wish her children to die for any country other than their own. This is nothing very startling.

We have throughout the world, in many countries, many who desire the realization of Tennyson's dream of "the parliament of man, the federation of the world". This is a highly altruistic view to take, and would that it could be realized. Any system or plan that may be formulated, however, either as a world plan or as one for our own country, which does not take account of the historic, cultural and political differences of people will fail.

The June, 1942, "Fortune Survey" speaks of Canada's divided loyalties and states:

Question some Canadians, and you find them more royalist than the king. Talk with others, and if you interpret them shrewdly, you find them more American than Chicago.

Although there may be a great deal to be said for such an attitude, I feel that the loyalty which we owe ourselves first and foremost is that due to Canada, if we wish this country to continue to progress as it has done in all its fields and endeavours.

Coming to the second division of my remarks, namely, that conscription was not a success in the last war and that it is not at present needed, I will not annoy this house with arguments already presented in this sense by previous speakers. It is a well known fact that the last conscription measure in the great war brought us at the most some 25,000 men, and I am one of those who believe that were conscription resorted to at this time, the results obtained in additional men would be more than offset by the disadvantages of the measure in other domains and fields of our war effort. No matter what government may pass and enforce a conscription bill, there will be numerous exemptions, as there should be, of those engaged in agriculture, fishing, necessary basic war industries, munitions works and shipbuilding, so that when all is said and done, the additional men brought in by the enforcement of such a measure may again, as was the case in the last great war, compel all those who were in its favour to affirm that,

[Mr. Blanchette.]

after all, this measure was not necessary and that it was a terrible mistake to have had recourse to it.

As stated by the hon. Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) present plans are to have under arms by next March some 600,000 men. Under date of May 7 last the Ottawa *Evening Citizen* published the following item which most hon. members have undoubtedly seen. It is entitled, "Recruitment jumps sharply with 609 enlistments in a day", and goes on to say:

A total of 609 men, the highest figure in any one day since the outbreak of the war, with the exception of some days during the recruiting campaign of last summer, enlisted Tuesday in the Canadian active army, the defence department announced last night.

Speaking of military district No. 5, including Quebec city and taking in quite a number of the counties in the province of Quebec, the *Montreal Gazette* as late as June 29 last published a news item headed, "Quebec district becomes one of the best". It goes on to say that this has been accomplished under the direction of Brigadier Vanier, soldier and diplomat, and that Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. J. Godreau has been appointed head of the recruiting office, a man of extraordinary initiative and activity, who has made of his new appointment a great success. It further states:

Day after day recruits come to give their voluntary services. Recruiting in the month of May, 1942, doubled that of 1941.

With reports such as these undoubtedly coming in from all the military districts, I cannot fathom, Mr. Speaker, why there should be any need for conscription. At the present rate of enlistments, surely there will come a saturation point in the number of men that Canada will be able to furnish for overseas service, and we do not know at what time we may need an active defence force for our own shores. I heartily agree with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) when he stated last week that he is asking himself if we are not doing too much for a country of our population and our resources. That was also referred to by the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe).

A few days ago I had the opportunity of meeting on the train on which the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) often travels, a member of the Canadian munitions board during the last war, and I believe he is acting in the same capacity to-day. This gentleman in conversation with me stated that three years after the last war a cable was sent from London to Canada advising us not to send more men but to send more food, and we may again find history repeating itself in that respect. In view of the number of men

we already have in the service, I am wondering whether we should not concentrate most of our efforts now on the supplying of food, munitions and equipment to the allied countries.

At times I ask myself whether some of those outside this house who demand immediate conscription have not motives other than military as their reasons for asking for conscription now. I also ask myself whether, if this measure were passed, they would cease their agitation. Already we have heard and read statements as precursors which indicate that they will not cease the agitation that has been made but that it will continue to be made against this government.

Although I feel that the present government has given us a balanced war effort such as no other government could have given us, and having at all times had confidence in its leader, I sincerely hope that in the event that this bill is passed its principle will not be applied.

For my part I am not able to reconcile the syllogism that conscription is not at present necessary, that it may never be necessary, and that, therefore, we should vote for conscription. I have received an express mandate from my constituents with regard to the matter, and my intentions are to respect what the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Roebuck) has termed, and rightly so, the supreme wish of the majority of the electors of the constituency.

My intentions are to vote against the bill as it is at present drawn.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the house adjourns I should like to point out the difficulty that arises in determining whether a member is reading or delivering his speech. The desire of the Speaker is always to apply the rule. Remarks have been made to me as to why I was not calling to order certain members who appeared to be reading their speeches. The reason lies in the difficulty of determining whether a member is consulting his notes or reading, and the Speaker sometimes refrains from intervening before being certain of an obvious violation of the rule. Our desire is, at all times, to impartially apply the rule, to which we repeatedly draw all hon. members attention. These remarks are made now because my attention has been drawn to an apparent inequality of treatment meted out to hon. members. I want to correct that false impression.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): I intend to make to-night only a few brief remarks. The debate has already been somewhat prolonged, largely by the amount of discussion that has been undertaken by members on the government side of the house, which indicates the disagreement there is in the government party and which, I presume, reflects to some extent some difference of opinion in the government itself.

Since I last spoke in this house, when I had the privilege of outlining a detailed total war policy, the military situation has become very much worse. In our opinion this demands immediate action on all fronts, in our own dominion and elsewhere; and I would suggest that this house should not adjourn without taking all the action necessary to meet the critical situation which now faces this country as one of the united nations. To leave the matter to some subsequent decision of the government, by order in council, is, as I said on June 11, something of an abdication of the rights of this parliament and of the responsibilities which we owe to the Canadian people who sent us here.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) himself on more than one occasion has condemned the practice of doing by order in council what should be done in this parliament. My colleague the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) yesterday quoted from a speech which the Prime Minister made in this house on June 17, 1920, as reported at page 3691 of *Hansard*, and which I recommend to the attention of the house at this time:

It is beneath the dignity of parliament—indeed, it is bringing parliament into contempt—to ask us to enact as a law a code of regulations that we have not even perused.

That is precisely what we are asked to do now. If we support the amendment contained in Bill 80, we give to the government the right by order in council, by regulation, to bring into effect something which may affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of young men, and without any reference to this house at a subsequent time. The Prime Minister went on:

I hope I shall never see the day when as a member of this parliament I shall be prepared to consent to any legislation without knowledge of the particulars to which it is proposed to give the force of legal enactment.

To-day we are being asked by the Prime Minister, and by the government of which he is the head, to enact legislation which gives