

difficulty of the task, which would perhaps have deterred me had I not felt that I could depend on the benevolence of men of great experience who now do me the favour of listening to my very humble and modest remarks.

Whatever may be the tenor of what I shall submit to your judgment, may I declare at the outset, in order to prevent misunderstanding, that I am glad of the sentiment now prevailing in my native province of Quebec. Surely every honourable senator has noticed the great difference between the feelings and attitude of Canadians of French origin in 1917 and to-day. Through better understanding, and also through a desire to study Canadian problems as such, what is now asked from my compatriots of Quebec as a necessity is regarded with the greatest moderation and the greatest calm. We, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, know that, as is acknowledged in the Prairie Provinces, Canada to-day is fighting for her existence as a nation. We know also what the fate of Quebec would be if to-morrow—but God will not permit this—England should be defeated.

Very often in the past those coming from my province were described as idealists, unable in the economic field to achieve the success others had attained. This was due to the fact that our system of education had to be accommodated to the form and quality of mentality we had to develop. We wanted to remain true to our origin, and so our educational institutions encouraged pupils to study for the professions rather than for finance, industry and commerce. But to-day we realize that we must so plan education that our youth may be better equipped to take their place in the financial, industrial and commercial activities of the Dominion.

Yet this ideal that has been developed in us dominates the young men of my people and makes them desirous of keeping unfurled a flag under which sometimes we have felt uneasy, but which is a symbol of defence and protection of the traditions to which we now and always will adhere.

Furthermore, this ideal, which has been a tower of strength for our province, makes us realize that to-day perfect unity of this country is more than ever essential. At all times, as honourable senators will admit, we have proclaimed ourselves profoundly attached not only to the province of Quebec, but also to Canada. It may well be that, moved by the words of small minorities among us, you have thought at times that our loyalty was not such as was openly declared by our public men. Yet when the day came—it was only six months ago—to prove that for Canada

Quebec has always been and will always be ready to do her full share of duty, she answered the call to the satisfaction of all those who really place Canadian patriotism above every other.

If, in the past, Quebec, proud of the prestige and influence of France, took a position which displeased some, making them believe that even politically we were inclined much more towards her than towards England, this was a profound error. But let this be forgotten. Quebec to-day has no illusions; she knows her true position, and if ever a crisis in our national life has commanded her to appeal to reason and moderation, it is the one we are passing through now.

Who will not admit that what has been going on for the last year in Europe has very materially changed our way of looking at American or Canadian security? Up to now many have believed that the ocean between an aggressor nation and our two countries was in itself such a defence that our common territory was safe from attack. But who to-day would so affirm who has read of the lightning attacks on Poland, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and France? Who doubts that, dominating Europe as he does to-day, the German leader may have the ambition of one day subjecting to his power Canada, and even the United States? I might at this point refer to an article by Walter Lippman entitled "Wake Up, America!" which, if I remember correctly, appeared in the Press last September. In it he stated that no one in the United States had the right to claim the Atlantic ocean to be any longer a defence for that country. Let me ask honourable members: If the Atlantic ocean can no longer be regarded as a defence for the United States, how can it be relied on by ourselves?

And, if I may repeat, how could we be blamed when, as we know, our powerful neighbour the United States felt perfectly secure, depending, like ourselves, on the Atlantic ocean, which was considered as a national defence? But what a change in opinion has come about in face of the kind of war that Germany can and does make! Now it is acknowledged in the United States that the Atlantic ocean is no obstacle to invasion, and Americans well know that if to-morrow Germany had command of the sea—let us hope and pray the British Navy will continue in control—their tardy defence preparations would not permit them to view with serenity the future of the American continent.

But Hitler, once master of Europe, would not need even to invade this continent to reduce it to complete and entire economic dependence. Yet, perhaps his desire to affirm

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