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COMMONS

in peace, happiness and harmony with all mankind. I am equally satisfied that Great Britain will never enter into war for any purpose other than to defend herself and other peace-loving democracies.

As the Prime Minister stated yesterday, it is of paramount importance to keep Canada united. The desire of the government for unity should find support from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Canada should and will be united when the people realize that all our efforts are to maintain peace and defend our shores. There is no man more fitted by experience and temperament to achieve this great purpose than is our own Prime Minister, and I am confident that when our dominion realizes that danger is at our very doors, then that purpose will be achieved. May that realization come soon.

I repeat that it is Canada's duty to stand with the other self-governing dominions of the empire and have one great, united force. I feel that the greatest contribution to world peace to-day would be an immediate and definite assurance from the dominions and democracies to Great Britain that in the event of an aggressive war by a nation greedy for power the dominions and democracies would give unlimited support to the motherland in men, arms and supplies. I feel that in the interests of peace Canada must let Great Britain know that we are arming for peace with her. At this time I read the words of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoken in this house shortly after the outbreak of war in 1914. The great Sir Wilfrid said:

It is our duty, more pressing upon us than all other duties at once, on this first day of this extraordinary session of the Canadian parliament, to let Great Britain know and to let the friends and foes of Great Britain know that there is in Canada but one mind and one heart, and that all Canadians stand behind the mother country.

Continuing, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:

We are British subjects, and to-day we are face to face with the consequences which are involved in that proud fact. Long have we enjoyed the benefits of our British citizenship; to-day it is our duty to accept its responsibilities and sacrifices. . . . It is a matter of history in one of the noblest pages in the history of England, in that she never drew the sword until every means had been exhausted to secure and occupy an honourable peace. There is in this the inspiration and the hope that from this painful war the British empire may emerge with a new bond of union, the pride of all its citizens, and a life line to all other nations.

Those were the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1914, and I am confident that they are the sentiments of the people of Canada in 1939.

[Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City).]

The only clash that is likely to take place in the world to-day is between the democracies and the dictatorships. I am not finding fault with dictatorships. If any nation in the world desires to be governed by a dictator; if any nation prefers the totalitarian system of economy, that is its affair and we have no right to interfere. But when dictators endeavour by force to impose their forms of government upon other people who are unwilling to accept them and do not desire those forms of government, then we must be prepared to resist their efforts.

We cherish our freedom. We love our freedom. We will not give it up lightly. Our freedom has been dearly won and our freedom will be bravely defended. We are not prepared to accept dictatorship, which would take us back to the dark days of feudalism. In making that statement I feel I speak for all democracies. Their freedom like ours was dearly won; their freedom like ours will be bravely defended. The last great war from 1914 to 1918 was, we had hoped, a war to end war. It was, we had hoped, a war to bring about permanent peace. Unfortunately that may not have been accomplished, although we still hope that it has been. Whether it was accomplished or not, every man and woman who took part in that last war did in the hope that they were giving of their best to establish peace for generations yet unborn.

No one has authority to speak for all the veterans of the last war; but from expressions from their various organizations and from ex-service men who are not in organizations, I feel I can say with confidence that those who fought in the last war to bring about lasting peace are prepared again to do their bit to establish such a peace and to maintain freedom in this land. Those who went through the blood and fire of the last war do not want their efforts to have been vain. They fought for freedom, for justice. They are prepared to defend that freedom and that justice for which they fought. They would love to keep Canada united, they would love to keep all parts of the empire united—why? Because they feel that by a united Canada and a united empire they can do more to maintain peace than if the world felt there was a difference of opinion.

The Canadian corps association has expressed it in this way:

Solidarity within the confines of the British empire at this time should have a retarding effect upon aggressors, whoever they may be, and may prevent bloodshed and even war.

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Great Britain is giving of its best to-day to maintain peace. There is not a sacrifice which the brave people of the motherland will not undergo in order to maintain peace. There are some in this land who found fault with the noble and heroic efforts of the great Prime Minister of England, the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, when he returned and returned to Germany in an effort to preserve peace. Whether he was right at that time or whether he was wrong I do not know: I have my own opinion, others have theirs. But it does not behoove anyone in Canada, considering the little we have done to preserve peace, to complain or find fault with any of the efforts of that great man of the empire. Forty-five million people in Great Britain are standing against the ruthless machine of an aggressor in an effort to preserve peace. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, how much greater that power for peace would be if it were backed up by 2,000,000 people in South Africa, 1,600,000 people in New Zealand, 6,830,000 in Australia and 11,000,000 in Canada, together with the other millions of people of this great empire? If the 45,000,000 people in Great Britain are stemming the efforts of a dictator to destroy the peace of the world, how much greater would the effect be if all the peoples of the empire and of the democracies were to stand up boldly with Great Britain to defend democracy and freedom and to maintain justice?

We in Canada must speed up our defences always with the thought in mind that we do not desire war; that on the contrary we do desire peace. Every dollar that is spent for armaments should be spent with the thought in mind that we are buying a dollar's worth of peace. Our resources must be given to the limit to maintain that peace. We must be prepared to mobilize, freed from the clutches of the war profiteer, the resources of this dominion, men, money and material, on the side of justice, freedom and goodwill. Make no mistake; those who would control the world to-day do not want merely to control Europe. There is a prize for which certain powers in the world are seeking, and it may be that that prize is Canada. If the British empire falls in Europe, will the prize be Great Britain, or will it be some other country beyond the sea? I ask those who sit in security in this country to consider whether the prize for which the dictators are striving to-day is not this our own native land? It is indeed a great prize. We have the greatest country in the world, stretching across this continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with great resources, great open spaces, a

land of unlimited possibilities. As I said before, we have privileges, but we also have responsibilities; and one of those responsibilities is to defend and maintain for democracy, for the empire, for freedom, this Canada of ours.

The British empire has been a great force for good throughout the ages. That empire is to-day a great force for good in the world, and that empire must be maintained, if freedom also is to be maintained. Our place is with the empire because I am convinced, as Mr. Beverley Baxter has said, that the British empire, with its liberty, its justice and its destiny, is still the greatest force for good in the world.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): My first remark would be that perhaps this evening's papers make plain the fact that recent events have brought the world to a realization that we are tottering on the very brink of war. The destruction of Czechoslovakia, completed just a few weeks ago, the annexation of Memel, are two recent events in a tragic series which, if we are going to understand this situation aright, we must view in their proper perspective. These events have occurred chiefly since the year 1931. To-day nations are speeding up their preparations for war, preparations which in my opinion clearly foreshadow an even greater crisis than that we have known. So the question I ask, and which I shall endeavour to answer from the point of view which I hold is: What is it that has brought the world to this pass?

In 1935 the present government of Great Britain, whose foreign policy we have followed rather closely, and whose leadership we may follow in the near future to an even greater degree, stated in its election manifesto that collective security and adherence to the League of Nations alone could "save us from a return to the old system which resulted in the last war." Then on July 26 of last year Mr. Chamberlain declared that the league had gone, and he stated that in the critical situation in which we found ourselves we had to fall back again upon the old methods of diplomacy. In those words the British Prime Minister confessed that we had returned to the old system of power politics which, unless a radical change can be made even at this late hour, will lead us and the world inevitably to war.

I have said on more than one occasion in this chamber that we have arrived at this pass because of the foreign policies that have been followed by the great powers since 1931, policies which, I repeat, we in this country