

the battle of Britain, in order to loose its swarms of barbarians on the rest of the world.

It seemed at that time that the collapse of a civilization was near and that nothing could halt the dreadful scourge. Across the channel the British people were in constant fear of invasion, but nevertheless feverishly organizing the defence of their country. In the course of the succeeding months England was to know every form of horror and anguish. After the defeat of France, Hitler thought, in his boundless conceit, that English morale would soon be broken by his powerful air force. That was his first great mistake. In spite of thousands of tons of explosives and incendiary bombs strewn over the English cities, in spite of the slaughter of innocent people, in spite of the destruction of their oldest and most beautiful monuments, the British people remained stoical amid their ruins and did not lose heart. On the contrary, the indomitable courage shown by them through those cruelly testing hours moved every nation of the world to admiration. This incredible tenacity through this trying period allowed those people who were still free to recover from the shock and organize resistance. By her example, by her indomitable courage and with the support of her formidable navy, England then saved the world from slavery of the worst kind.

If our country has not so far been invaded, if we have not hitherto experienced the brutish cruelty of the Gestapo, if we are not as yet at the mercy of the most brutal and most inhuman soldiery one can imagine, if we still are a free people, here in Canada, we owe it mostly to Britain. For the last two years, my military duties have prevented me from taking part in the debates of this house, but I wish to take the opportunity which is afforded me to-day to express my heartfelt admiration for my king, the queen and the British people, whose courage and steadfast determination are so aptly symbolized by the British bulldog in the person of their admirable Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

Mr. Speaker, Canada would not have this war. The citizens of this country were quite willing to live in peace, but circumstances over which we had no control have thrust this war upon us. We are fighting to-day beside nations which were still free and anxious to defend that which they hold most dear and most sacred. We are fighting in order to defeat the strongest imaginable conspiracy of evil forces to enslave the nations of the world. We are fighting to defend our christian ideal. We are fighting for the defence of those

liberties which are nearest our hearts. We are not fighting for China, for Russia, for the United States or for England but, as the late lamented Right Honourable Ernest Lapointe was wont to say with such aptness, we are fighting at their sides for Canada, our own country. This war is therefore our war and we must win it at all costs and, in order to do so, it is imperative that we maintain the unity of our country.

It has been stated by Sir Norman Birkett, speaking before the Canadian club in Montreal, on June 5th, that England's greatest achievement since the war started was the preservation of its national unity. Since we joined the conflict, our war effort has been wonderful. We have exceeded our expectations in all fields. Yet, despite the whole nation's tremendous efforts, despite the amazing results so far achieved, certain people claim that we have not yet accomplished anything, while others claim that we have done far too much. And there are at present in this country two groups of extremists who are causing considerable harm to our war effort and who are busy sabotaging our national unity. Do they realize to what extent they are playing into the enemy's hands? Nothing could so please Hitler as to see strife and disunion reign among his opponents. This was, moreover, a favourite method of his and one to which he invariably resorted before attacking any country. He weakened it first of all by having his agents of the fifth column spread class hatred throughout the nation. When he saw that prejudices, disunity and discord reigned supreme, the country was ripe for invasion. This was his strongest weapon in all the countries he vanquished. There are, at the moment, in this country two extremist factions who are playing into the enemy's hands. It seems to me that the government and the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) should take vigorous steps to put an end to this bickering. It is high time that this campaign of prejudices and disparagement was checked on both sides, for its only result is to engender hatred and discord which can lead our country to the worst disasters. There is no time to quarrel with one's neighbour when one's house is afire. This does not mean that French Canadians have no grievances in need of redress. On the contrary, we have many. But this is not the time to settle old accounts. While the enemy is at our gates, let us forget our quarrels, unite in the face of our common foe.

Before I resume my seat, Mr. Speaker, allow me to recall briefly to the memory of the house the most outstanding example of