

member for Vancouver South, as a critic on behalf of the opposition, is doing a fairly good job, but he has a different role from that of hon. members who are supporters of the government, and I believe that he could do it effectively without casting any aspersion on our efforts. I am constantly bringing to the attention of the proper authorities the importance of the defence of Nova Scotia. I realize that for this purpose and for other phases of our war effort we must have stability of government, and thank God, we have it better than in any other country I know of; also we must have coordination of effort and planning. If everyone who comes to this house were to put forward and emphasize his ideas as those which should be adopted for defence and for the conduct of this war, we should merely have confusion. So far as the defences of Nova Scotia are concerned, I, living on the coast, am naturally interested. I believe there must be a very comprehensive effort. While some places are defended, there is always a back door, and the back door is the door which has been left open in most cases during this war. So far as Nova Scotia is concerned, the strong places are only as strong as the weakest places, and our defences must be considered from the viewpoint of that part of this country which juts out into the Atlantic, but we must plan with a degree of secrecy. It would be terrible if we had an invasion of our Atlantic coast and you in Ottawa had to send bombers to bomb us who were for a time in the control of a foreign power. We think that, notwithstanding the world-wide effort which we should do everything to support, the defence of the eastern coast of this country is a first duty of our army and our navy.

Few know Nova Scotia better than the minister. During the Easter recess he went to the Pacific coast and flew to the Atlantic coast. I am sure that he has this situation in hand in a way which will bring confidence to the people of our province. So far as the navy is concerned, I have had conferences with my fishermen, and with the admiral in Nova Scotia, himself a Nova Scotian and a fine sailor, and I know that many things are being done, and others being changed, in the interests of coordination and efficiency. The defence effort is growing and will get better as time goes on. The air force, too, is doing a splendid job. If you get up quite early in the morning you will hear them in the air, and if you stay up late at night you will hear them still flying overhead. So that, while the hon. member for Vancouver South, representing the opposition, will naturally look for vulnerable parts of our defence, we

[Mr. Kinley.]

who are working in conjunction with the minister and come to him with our problems and tell him what we need and what we expect, cannot stand for anybody saying that we have not the gumption to bring before the government matters which we believe are in the interest of the province.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Why do you not come out in the open and say it?

Mr. CHURCH: I always enjoy reading in *Hansard* the remarks of the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg who has just spoken.

Three ministers have stated here this session that the question of farmers' exemptions is for another department, that boards have been set up, and that it is somewhat a matter of policy and of construction of the law passed. With all due respect may I remind the committee that the enemy is near our doors, and it is necessary to get men into the reserve army and into the army overseas. Yet count up all the exemptions and postponements which now exist under the law.

Mr. FLEMING: There are no exemptions.

Mr. CHURCH: When you allow for the farms, the munition plants, and the reserve army, you have very few of the population left, because there are exemptions yet, for the active army formations and for reinforcements overseas.

Before the resolution is adopted, there are one or two matters I should like to mention. If the minister is not able to clarify them to-day he may be able to do so to-morrow or in a day or two.

First, we have had a great many statements made by the chairmen of the defence board, both in Canada and in the United States, and speeches at banquets and over the radio. I will not dwell on this matter for more than a couple of minutes, for I think the minister has been very patient and has given a great deal of information, which the country will appreciate. But let me ask what is the joint policy on the north American continent in the case of Canada in the event of a surprise invasion? Here we have a joint defence board. The chairmen of both sections have, for over a year, been making a great many speeches—far too many speeches for the good of defence. Their work has been largely board and not much defence in sight yet. The two cardinal principles of this country's military policy and of this resolution are home defence and to protect Canada's neutrality in case our ally next-door is attacked by a foreign power, namely Japan. Could the minister clarify