

THE "NORTHERN BRIDGE" AND THE DANGER TO THE NEW WORLD

In recent days, you and I, Prime Minister, have crossed the great "Northern Bridge" which stretches through Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland from the Old World to the New. The narrow seas between Scotland and Iceland, between Iceland and Greenland, between Greenland and Newfoundland, through which you voyaged to your historic conference with President Roosevelt are the most vital strategic areas in the world today. As I spanned those waters and islands, in the space of a single night, I had a new and more vivid sense of our nearness, in North America, to the heart of the world conflict.

I felt a new pride, too, that, from the beginning of the war, Canada had been a keeper of that northern bridge. In Newfoundland, and in Iceland, Canadian forces were the pioneers from the new world. Across that bridge come vast supplies of war materials and foodstuffs; yes, and fighting men, too. Back across that same bridge, if this island bridgehead should ever be lost, would move the enslaving hordes of the new barbarians.

We know that it is not enough to garrison the bridge itself, unless we are prepared to defend this island which is its eastern bridgehead. That is why the fighting men of Canada are here in growing numbers to share in a task which is our defence as well as yours. By your action, you in Britain have already made it clear that you will never open to any aggressor the road across the Northern Bridge, ~~so~~ long as brave men survive to keep it closed.