

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): In the absence of the leader of this party it is appropriate that I should say a word for our group on this anniversary of confederation. We should be thankful indeed for the improvement in the war position to-day as compared with 1940. I doubt if any member of this house can ever forget the dark days of the summer of 1940. I am sure I can never forget them, because they were the most terrible days I ever experienced.

In considering the improved position to-day I think we should try always to keep in mind how we arrived at this position. We have reached our present position through the cooperation of all the people of the united nations. It was not the work of governments; it was not the work of industrialists; it was not the work of this class or that class. It was the welding together into one whole of the combined efforts of our people for a common purpose. In that, and in that alone, lies the hope of the future. If after this war is over, if after peace comes we are not able to continue this cooperation, then I am afraid all we shall have won through suffering and bloodshed will be lost.

The Prime Minister spoke about the great achievements of this dominion, and mentioned that we have now reached the status of a great power. I believe that we have; and having reached the status of a great power we have immensely increased our responsibilities. We must no longer in the councils of the nations allow other people to make our foreign policy for us. We must exercise the power which we have now obtained.

In the reading of history I have not derived comfort from the achievements of the great powers. I do not think any great power to this day has used its power for the good of humanity. Power has been used for the creation of empires. Empires have not always been used for the welfare of humanity. If we are to be great, if we are to achieve greatness in the future, if we are to have peace and harmony, then we shall have to stop thinking of empire and begin thinking in terms of a world community—not Anglo-Saxon, not of only English-speaking races, but of the whole world.

Mr. GRAYDON: The hon. member will not forget the empire, will he?

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words in support of the splendid addresses of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon), the leader of the Social Credit party (Mr. Blackmore) and the hon. member who spoke on behalf of the Cooperative Commonwealth

Federation (Mr. MacInnis). They have rewritten to-day the axiom laid down by Sir John A. Macdonald at Kingston in 1844, with respect to the destiny of this country. I was pleased, too, to hear the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) speak on behalf of French Canada.

Four years ago we were honoured by the visit of the king and the queen. The tremendous popularity of the monarchy was clearly demonstrated in all the provinces; in Quebec the school children turned out in such large numbers to welcome them. We are fighting this war for the right to live, but we must not forget the peace terms. The little man who saved England and who fought at Dunkirk will have something to say about those peace terms. And unless we as a dominion remain part of the British empire we shall have very little to say at the peace table. Let us not forget that we are allied with two powerful and imperialistic nations, the United States, and our great ally Russia. They may not be imperialistic in the sense that they want to grab more territory; that remains to be seen. There are many leading men, however, in those countries who do want extra territory. I say, however, that they are imperialistic only in the sense that they want to have a large share in world affairs and in the stipulation of the terms of peace.

Great Britain cannot exist after the war without the dominions. She needs them, as they need her. She has been the good Samaritan during this war to all the nations. Unless we remain closely allied with her she will become only a second class power after the war, and we shall have little or nothing to say about the terms of peace.

In this war we are fighting as an empire on the side of humanity, liberty, freedom and civilization. We will remember that the British Prime Minister said that he had not become prime minister to preside at the liquidation of the empire, or to let the empire go by default. If that were to happen, the mother country would become a second class power, at the edge of Europe.

I rejoice that this message of hope is to be sent to our troops at the front, and it pleases me that those of us who are working in the House of Commons have taken this opportunity to pay tribute to the glorious record of the mother country down through the ages, and to the part the dominions have played.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I suggest this would be the appropriate time and occasion for hon. members to join in the singing of *O Canada*.

Whereupon the members of the house rose and sang *O Canada*.