

The press to-day, as was intimated by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson), carries an article that warnings have been received of a possible, expected influx of criminal saboteurs from across the border. Whether this report is authentic I have no knowledge. In any event let it go forth from the floor of this house to such people, if any there be, that they could not at this moment undertake a more hazardous or unhealthy task. I have been told by some of those in high places in the United States who are charged with the responsibility of law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice, that the underworld of the United States in peace time give Canada a wide berth so far as operating here is concerned. Sometimes members of that underworld run across the border into Canada to hide after crimes committed in the United States; but they do not come to Canada to operate, and the reason is that they are afraid of the rope in Canada; they are also afraid of the swift, sure, non-political administration of criminal justice in this country of which we have a just right to be proud. If any evil-minded enemy aliens contemplate trips to Canada, let me warn them that we in this country shall use our best efforts—and those efforts, as I have indicated, are not inconsiderable—to see that their adventure shall end at the end of a rope.

I should like to have our committee accorded the right to consider such drastic measures of punishment and, at least, promptly offer their report to this house thereon. I am looking at the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green), who will, I am sure, cooperate in this matter. The house may or may not adopt the recommendation.

I offer these observations in support of the suggestion that, if the house approves, the few words of which I have advised the minister should be added to the resolution.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): In May of last year, upon the estimates of the Department of Justice relating to the mounted police, I raised in the committee this question of adverse propaganda, because at that time there was a great deal of dissatisfaction over the circulation in Canada of certain United States papers. At that time I asked that the powers of the mounted police should be extended and coordinated with the police systems of the provinces, and especially of the municipalities, and that the federal power should pay, in part, for the enforcement of federal law. However, nothing whatever was done at that time about this matter. The dominion has said that the enforcement of all federal law is a matter for the provinces, and therefore the burden of enforcing the federal

statutes and rules and regulations is largely on the municipalities who have to pay for it. This objectionable fifth-column propaganda had been going on for a long time, and for that reason I asked on that occasion that the minister should look into the matter and that he should coordinate the federal police system with the police systems of the provinces and of the municipalities.

It is extraordinary that the defence of Canada regulations were not brought up for consideration during the parliamentary session known as the war session. Nothing was done nor was there any discussion on the schedule of rates to be paid the dependents of those serving in the army, navy and air force of this country. On the patriotic fund bill, the minister simply said that it was desirable to provide an organization for such purpose and asked to put on *Hansard* the schedule—\$1.30 a day for the army—without debate. We saw what became of that piece of legislation, through passing it without debate or question, and the suffering which followed. The same thing happened to the defence of Canada regulations during that war session—not a word was said about it. It is astonishing to note that the first thing heard of this War Measures Act revival was the minute of the privy council on March 14, 1938, No. 531. The government had done nothing down to the day this order in council was passed, largely upon the urgings of the opposition with regard to defence that year. I make no apology for criticizing the minister or the government, because criticism is a tonic in time of war which stimulates government to action. Britain and France have realized that during the past three months. Constructive and helpful criticism saves a government from falling into a pit of errors and blunders which are fatal in time of war, more so than in peace. If the criticism is honest and founded on fact and not inspired by political motives there can be no objection to it; it is most desirable and proper.

I pointed out that during the war session nothing was said about these matters. The interdepartmental committee on emergency legislation was appointed shortly after Germany started on the march. An order in council was passed on March 14, 1938, setting up this interdepartmental committee, but it never held a meeting from March up to the end of September, although the fate of the world was being decided in that memorable meeting at Munich in 1938. Even then the committee merely met, got organized, and elected a chairman. This inaction continued until January 19 of last year. Although the Germans had invaded three or four countries,