

Churchill. Hon. members will be familiar with the magnificent passage with which he concluded his speech on October 8. I shall not repeat it, because already it is known to all of you. It has become part of the literature of England.

Our government can make plans, let contracts, set up new producing companies, levy taxes and ask for loans. All these things it has been doing and will continue to do at an increasing rate. But what Canada accomplishes will depend on her people, and what they do will depend on their own will, their own spirit. That is why it is essential that the government keep the people informed, in the greatest possible measure, of what it is doing; that it gain understanding for its actions, and do everything it can to develop in the nation a spirit that can do for Canada what it has done for the people of Britain. There they have a popular war-time catchword to the effect that civilians are suffering more from the bombing than are the men in the front lines, in the armed forces. The figures given this week by Mr. Churchill show this to be true. There is little likelihood just now that civilians in Canada will have to stand up to bombing, but they are going to have to make other sacrifices. They are going to have to give up for the war cause many of the things they otherwise would have. They are going to have to deprive themselves until it hurts. Soldiers, sailors and airmen, munitions workers and producers of all kinds, are going to have to play their vital part; but ordinary people, too, will be called upon for sacrifices. That is why we need and are glad to have a united national spirit. In the hard world we live in it is not enough for a nation to defend its old way of living, to try to maintain the easy ways to which it was accustomed. The past year has shown that nations which try to hold a shield in front of a body lacking in vigour are lost. We have only to compare the Britain of to-day with the France of June to bring home this lesson. To survive against the powerful desperate marauders ranging the world, a nation must have a driving power within itself.

In all history those who have prevailed have always been those who were driven by a common desire for something better. Democracy is far from dead in the world, far from being a spent force. But if we are to beat back the evil powers—and they are strong—we must have a dynamic democracy, one that has hitting power because it is moving forward, one that has not lost its force through standing still. This idea was emphasized by Lord Baldwin at Toronto in 1939, when he said:

[Mr Claxton.]

Democracies must attain to new levels of technical efficiency for self-defence and learn to cooperate.

And he added that democracies must strive with more insistence and passion than ever before to make real the twin ideals of social justice and individual freedom.

Well, in Canada we have plenty of opportunity. We can begin with the Sirois report. The government is to be congratulated on the step in this direction announced yesterday. The report is not only a great state document, resulting from years of study and work, but, without altering the fundamentals of confederation, it represents a new charter for the people of all Canada. People from end to end of Canada would like to see it implemented, because they know that we cannot get along in a very difficult twentieth century world with a constitution which was designed to meet the financial and social needs and conditions of the nineteenth century.

I had the honour of being associated with my friend Senator Gouin in a study for the Sirois commission. Our study is printed at appendix 8 and this is what we say at page 33:

There is to-day an uncertainty and a sense of frustration comparable to the conditions which confederation was intended to improve. It is no part of our duty to recommend what course should be followed, but we believe that the picture of legislative confusion outlined in the pages which follow shows that constructive steps must now be taken if the needs of the Canadian people are to be properly met and if the integrity of Canada is to be preserved.

That was written in 1939, when neither of us imagined that we could be here to join with you in doing what we can to clear the air of this continual "miasma which we meet at every turn as to the respective jurisdiction of the dominion and of the provinces" as one highly respected private member put it some years ago. We are ready to-day to show the same self-reliance, the confidence, the faith that the fathers of confederation had seventy-three years ago.

Some critics may object that the recommendations of the Sirois report should be left until after the war, that it is our business to get on with the war. We can get on with the war effectively only if we are strong at home. In war the strength of the home front is as essential to success as strength on the battle front. In reality to-day there are not two fronts but only one. For this reason we should be planning, working, directing every effort to make Canada a better place, to make Canadians better citizens, so that our contribution to the cause we have at heart will be more effective and more successful.

In all the fields of government and education, in the training of skilled labour, in