

If the government will do these four things, they will find very soon that there will be a much more united Canada, a much more powerful Canada, a Canada that shall go forward in this great struggle with confidence and assurance, using to the full the resources God has given her.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

### After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my reason for taking part in this debate is more particularly that I feel it my duty to make my position clear before the house and before the country on one or two points which were raised in the house and in the newspapers last week. Before doing so, however, I wish to say a few words on the subject matter of the debate, the purpose for which the motion to go into supply is before the house, namely, external affairs.

Of course at the present time all our activities in external affairs are governed by the war. The foreign policy of Canada or of any country is determined by its national interest and by its cultural and moral structure. We are at present going through a terrible crisis. Canada accepted the necessity of this war because she could not do otherwise, and because her honour and her most sacred interests were at stake.

The British commonwealth of nations represents a civilization to which the members of that commonwealth are so deeply attached as to be ready to defend it if the need comes. Hitler is making war on the whole world, politically, morally and economically. He said himself only a few weeks ago in one of his famous vituperations:

Two worlds are in conflict, two philosophies of life. One of these two worlds must break asunder.

Britain and Canada are fighting to save and preserve the soul of man, to save the other world, the one that Hitler is trying to destroy. If, at the start of hostilities, some may have entertained different views as to where our duty lay, surely the events of the last few months must have changed their views about it. In the light of new, extraordinary and unforeseen conditions, surely they cannot stick to opinions which they might conscientiously have entertained when civilization itself was not at stake.

Our policies must be realistic, based on facts, on life. Common to all our national

[Mr. Blackmore.]

groups in Canada are fundamental ideals that should unite us all. First among these is freedom of the individual; we Canadians do not want to be either tools or slaves. Second is the freedom of national groups in our community to develop their own cultural mentality and traditions; we have only to think of the ruthless destruction of Czech and Polish nationhood to know what would happen if Hitler were ever the master of Canada. Even in France, although there is an armistice, the process is in operation. I received the other day from the comité France-Amerique circulars protesting against the compulsory evacuation by Germans of all the French citizens of Lorraine, all those whose names were not German. They were robbed of their property and expelled from their native land. Everywhere Germany has done away with the national language of the communities she has enslaved. We do not want that in Canada.

The third ideal is the liberty of the Christian faith. Does everybody realize that we to-day are witnessing the same events as happened thirteen centuries ago when the forces of Mahomet tried to dominate Christianity and forced Christians everywhere to take up arms to defend their faith? There were nations at the time which hesitated, which did not defend themselves at the start; they were conquered and they had to choose between death, slavery or adjuration of their faith. Hitler with his complex of divinity would land us back in the dark ages, but of course with the new modern technique which he has invented. As between the Cross and what it means to us and the pagan swastika and what it represents, we certainly choose to defend everything that is dear to us.

Furthermore, a nazi victory would mean the shattering of the world structure as we know it to-day. Some make the mistake of believing that civilization is secure. It is not. We have to watch over it and guard it. Before the advent of dictatorships there was stability in the world; the word of any great country was as trustworthy as its very existence. To-day the new world order is made up of gangsterism, lying and diplomatic black-guardism. If this is to be the victorious order, it will be useless for nations to engage in negotiation or enter into agreements or treaties. It would be better to have no agreements than to have broken agreements. Honesty, justice and respect for the plighted word are necessities in international relations. Until we have those, no small nation can be neutral or secure. I believe in the League of Nations, as does my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) and other hon. gentlemen who have expressed them-