

constituencies. It is going to be a general Canadian plebiscite, and the majority will carry the day. I think that is the way the honourable gentleman understands it.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I just wanted to know what was my honourable friend's understanding.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: If the public vote "Yes," what then?

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Again I can give only my interpretation. I do not represent the Government in this Chamber, and probably never shall. It is my own personal interpretation. I hope the matter will be better explained in due course.

That brings me to my main point to-night. I want to be clear on that. I am interested not only as a member of the Senate, but as a father and as a citizen of Canada. What is going to be the nature of the plebiscite? As I said before, I take it for granted that it is to be Canada-wide, irrespective of provincial boundaries or constituencies. Either it will carry or it will not. If it does carry, I understand that it leaves the Government free to resort to selective compulsory military service abroad whenever the Government deems it necessary to do so. I stand to be corrected by my leader, if I am wrong in that. If the plebiscite does not carry, the Government will respect the will of the people as expressed by them in the vote, and will go on as if nothing had happened until its term of office has expired. That is the way I understand it.

The point I want to come to is this. Much will have to be explained to the public.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: There are going to be fellows on both sides who will try to see that the public at large do not interpret the question aright. That is why I make the plea as strongly as I possibly can, that the Government make the issue as clear as possible in the minds of all concerned, so that no excuse can be invoked afterwards.

I also want to emphasize the fact that this country is going to see a tremendous amount of publicity and propaganda which will come from the source to which I have already referred more than once. Certain interests are going to draw upon their financial resources—and, judging from the size of their recent advertisements, they seem to have plenty yet, which have not been used in buying war savings stamps. That money will be expended on more or less misleading advertisements in a certain number of carefully chosen newspapers. I do not expect to get a nickel of it for my own paper, because they know where

I stand. I think the Government should make an effort to place the matter before the public in the most impartial way in order that the people may decide intelligently. There should be no intimidation or terrorism. If there is, what is the use of spending money and shedding blood fighting against tyranny? Therefore I say it behooves the Government to set the issue fairly and squarely, impartially and intelligibly before the people of Canada. I ask those who favour conscription and those who are opposed to it to be fair about it. Personally, I do not hesitate to state my views right now, and say that I am absolutely opposed to such a drastic, provocative and unnecessary measure. But let each and every one of us stick to the issue, vote conscientiously and then abide by the consequences, as good Canadians should.

On motion of Hon. Mrs. Fallis, the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 28, 1942.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. MacLennan for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. IVA C. FALLIS: Honourable members of the Senate, I should like first of all to join with those who have preceded me in paying tribute to the mover (Hon. Mr. MacLennan) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Gouin) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The honourable senator from Margaree Forks (Hon. Mr. MacLennan) gave us a statement of some of the results of the work of the present Government in providing munitions and weapons of war, as well as agricultural products. Later the right honourable leader of the House (Right Hon. Mr. Dandurand) amplified that statement to a great extent. I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to say that I think we all, as Canadians, have reason to be proud of