

*The Address—Mr. Fournier (Hull)*

In our own country, rather harsh criticism is at times levelled at the government in connection with the war effort. I would like to read here certain excerpts taken, some from Mr. Churchill's speech, others from various sources, in order to ascertain the opinion of the British empire's chief on the Canadian war effort. Here is what Mr. Churchill said in his speech before this house concerning our war effort. I quote from the *Ottawa Journal* of December 31, 1941:

The contribution of Canada to the imperial war effort in troops, in ships, in aircraft, in food and in finance has been magnificent.

This statement was not made by a Canadian, but by the Prime Minister of Britain.

The Canadian army now stationed in Britain has chafed not to have been in contact with the enemy and I am here to tell you that it has stood and still stands in the key position to strike at the invader should he land upon our shores.

A little farther, in the same speech:

Sir, the Canadian government have imposed no limitation upon the use of the Canadian army, whether upon the continent of Europe or elsewhere . . . at Hong Kong, Canadian soldiers of the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers, under a brave officer whose loss we mourn, have played a valuable part in gaining precious days and have crowned with honour, with military honour, the reputation of their native land.

And still further:

Another major contribution made by Canada to the world war effort is the wonderful and gigantic empire training scheme for pilots for the royal and imperial air force.

Read further and this is what you will find:

I could, sir, speak also on the naval production of corvettes, and above all of the merchant ships, which is proceeding on a scale almost equal to the building of the United Kingdom; all of which Canada has set on foot. I could speak of many other activities; of tanks, of the special forms of modern high-velocity cannon; of the great supplies of raw materials and many other elements essential to our war effort, on which your labours are ceaselessly and tirelessly engaged.

These words were uttered by one of our allies, indeed, by the leader of our allies. Did he come here to flatter the people of Canada or to recognize the true extent of the effort we are making? I believe he is too sincere and too much interested in the maintenance of the British commonwealth to talk nonsense regarding our war effort. The criticism of our effort comes not from outside, but from inside and from a class of people who never feel at ease when they are out of power.

(Text) In October and November, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of visiting Great Britain on the invitation of the Empire Parliamentary Association. I wish to thank the

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right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) most sincerely for designating me as a member of that delegation, which consisted of six members of the House of Commons—the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore), leaders of their parties in this house; the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Jackman), and three Liberal members, my neighbour the hon. member for Brantford City (Mr. Macdonald), the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght), and myself.

We spent three weeks in Britain. I may not tell you everything we saw during that trip, but I do wish to say a few words about the audience which was granted us by Their Majesties the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace. After touring Britain we were received by their majesties. For forty-five minutes we were in intimate conversation with them, and when we left we were under the charm of their simplicity, their naturalness and their interest in what was going on in our country. They spoke to us of their personal experiences; and as a French-Canadian I must state that nearly all the time I was there Her Majesty the Queen spoke to me in French. I recall that she mentioned her visits to Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa. She referred to her speech at the laying of the cornerstone of the Supreme Court building, in which she compared the laws of Scotland, her own country, to those of the province of Quebec. The last thing I remember about that meeting was the statement that after this war was over it would be a pleasure for them to come back and visit the Canadian people again, this time bringing the children.

We saw the damage that has been done to the cities over there. It is extensive, very extensive. We met the people going on with their ordinary work—grim, determined, ready to meet the foe. We saw something of the preparation that has been made for the defence of the island. We saw the conditions under which the people live, and what particularly struck me was the food situation. I may not give the details, but perhaps we do not always remember that they are rationed over there, and rationed most severely. In our country we are just talking now about making sacrifices, about depriving ourselves of some luxuries, or perhaps some necessities. Well, over there they are living under a rationing system, and that is not the most pleasant or agreeable experience. The blackouts are terrible things. Perhaps I could stand not eating so much, but to be unable to go out after dark; to be closed in—in London, where I wanted to see everything—had a bad effect on my morale. I was surprised to find that