

available at this time if we are to make a great effort on behalf of Great Britain and the Allies.

Now, as germane to this Bill, I want to discuss for a moment the question of an expeditionary force, as Parliament is dispersing without any very clear statement on this question. In fact some of us were a little disappointed the other day to hear not only the honourable leader of the Government in this House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), but also the Prime Minister himself, suggest that our position was the same as that of Australia, and that in Australia the Government were merely considering what they ought to do.

I dissent from that view. We are absolutely not in the same position. Several years ago in discussing the question of naval defence I pointed out to the House what Australia was doing in this direction. The answer which came immediately, either from the honourable leader or from some of his friends, was that the position of Australia was quite different from that of Canada; that Australia had to maintain a navy for the reason that she lived in proximity to a power more or less hostile, namely, Japan. I agreed at once that the position of Australia was different from that of Canada in the matter of naval defence. It is more so now, when the Japanese are more threatening. Therefore the position of Australia is quite different from that of Canada in respect to raising an expeditionary force. The position of New Zealand is much the same as that of Australia, though I observed quite recently that New Zealand is already recruiting an expeditionary force.

The position of South Africa is also different from that of Canada. The Government of South Africa have to deal with the Germans in South West Africa, and General Smuts has emphasized again and again the danger which lies in the fact that the Italians are raising a black army in Abyssinia. Consequently, of all the Dominions of the British Commonwealth of Nations, Canada is the only country which is free to dispatch an expeditionary force without having to consider threats from its immediate neighbourhood.

The situation as to the dispatch of an expeditionary force is very simple. About six months ago, when staff talks took place between high officers of the British and French armies, the question of an expeditionary force came up. The French said: "We know we have the German frontier to fight upon, we shall probably have to fight upon the Italian frontier also, and at the moment the Spanish frontier is threatening. We intend to mobilize all available personnel to man these frontiers and defend ourselves. What are you going to

do?" This was a shock to the British people, for, as you will remember, Mr. Baldwin had said a couple of years ago that the day of expeditionary forces was gone; that there would be no more expeditionary forces. Our own Mr. Bennett said the same thing—probably because Mr. Baldwin had so expressed himself. But it was an absolutely unwise observation even then. In reply to the inquiry from the French staff officers, the British staff officers promised seventeen divisions, and said that, given a little time, they would double the number. To-day there is a British expeditionary force in France fighting along with the French, and it is being added to day by day.

There can be no possible question or doubt that our war contribution must be an expeditionary force. The people of this country have no understanding of our waging of this war otherwise than by the dispatch of such a force. Therefore it becomes important to state early that an expeditionary force will be dispatched, and to proceed with its organization.

The only question upon which there need be consideration is when it shall be dispatched. That is determined by two factors: first, the organization and training of the force; secondly, its equipment. The most sanguine individual will not expect that our first expeditionary force at all events will be equipped from Canadian resources. It will have to be equipped from the resources of Great Britain. There is no use in dispatching a force until it is trained, and there is no use in sending it to England until it can be equipped.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Can you train it without equipment?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: That is another difficulty. I should say that in from four to five months, with the equipment we have, we shall be able to reach a certain stage of training. If equipment is available in England the troops can then be dispatched, and another couple of months will be required to familiarize them with the equipment they will have to use.

I conclude this part of my remarks by saying: it should be declared there will be an expeditionary force; its size should be stated; organization and training should be proceeded with; and the equipment should be brought to hand at the earliest possible moment.

In the Prime Minister's speech I read another passage which disturbed me greatly. Speaking of what the Government would do, he said: