

but also to withstand and to restrain such action as may be harmful. It will not be easy to withstand the public demand for quick action. Indeed those who demand quick action without regard to the direction in which that action shall be taken may prove to be enemies of Canada. Let us be sure that such action as is taken is in the right direction. Let us avoid the many mistakes that were made in the last war. This war will demand cold and grim determination on the part of all of us.

It is too early to talk of peace, but let us hope that when peace comes the mistakes of the treaty of Versailles may be avoided, lest we may again sow the seeds for another war.

In the meantime we in Canada, with the full knowledge of what faces us, have made our choice. We have made that choice as a free nation. We must not fail in the task that we have undertaken.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggarr): Mr. Speaker, allow me first on behalf of the group with which I am associated to express appreciation of the very difficult and grave problem with which the government, the country and this house are alike confronted. May I say further that in the solution of the many problems arising out of the conflict which is now developing the group of which I am a member will cooperate in every possible way.

I agree with the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Thorson) who has just preceded me, when he says that we must avoid everything that will cause any measure of disunity in the country in which we live and perchance inflict wounds that even time will find it difficult to heal. We must not forget therefore that Canada—and again in this I follow the hon. member for Selkirk—is a land of diverse peoples, of diverse origins, with perhaps even diverse ideals. Our duty in war as in peace must be to weld those peoples into a real Canadian nation. Thus what we have to take into account first are, it seems to me, the needs and aspirations of the Canadian people as a whole.

Already several times in this debate personal references have been made by hon. members to their own particular backgrounds. May I therefore say just a word with regard to mine. I was born, nurtured and educated in the old land. I came to Canada when I was barely twenty-one years of age, and I have lived here for approximately thirty years. My love for England will remain with me always; but the land which is my home, the land where my children were born and where I hope in years to come my children may establish homes, and thus raise their families, must be my first consideration. To Canada I, in common with others who came from other

[Mr. Thorson.]

lands, must give my first and my undivided allegiance. This, it seems to me, must be the standpoint from which we who are in this house as representatives of the Canadian people must come to our decisions in the present crisis.

Canada is a federation of provinces, and often has been said to be a difficult country to govern. It seems to me we must at all times choose the path that leads to unity, rather than the paths which lead away from it. In such a land, based upon a somewhat loose confederation, the preservation and extension of democracy is in a very real and vital sense fundamental. We must see to it, then, that during this struggle the foundations of a regimented totalitarian regime are not laid. Yet already we have heard in the house, and particularly in the speech last night of the leader of the New Democracy group, a demand for conscription of men, of finance and of industry. Moreover it was suggested that this was good in peace and in war. Let us beware of the implications of such a policy; for whether or not it is apprehended by those who advocate it, such a war-time policy, if successful, would see us emerge from this struggle as a thoroughly regimented and totalitarian state. Yet the major justification for Canada's cooperation in this struggle is that most of our people believe this is a fight against powers which if victorious will destroy democracy throughout the world. May I remind the house that it was for this cause that the war of 1914-18 was said to have been fought. Are we, then, again deceiving ourselves and those who trust us when we say that involved in this struggle may be the survival of democratic institutions?

Let us make up our minds at the very outset of this struggle that under no circumstances and in no guise shall we permit the foundations of a regimented totalitarian state to be laid in Canada. Against totalitarianism in its several forms we of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, along with others in this house, are determined and united. What policy do we urge upon this house in the present crisis? Last night the house listened to the speech of our beloved and respected leader when he gave his personal point of view. May I say that in this crisis we can go far with him, but not all the way. The glory of democracy is that men and women who are united in great issues may still express their individual views when they are not in complete agreement, and then travel along together exactly as they did before.

It has fallen to my lot this afternoon to place before the house the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation policy in relation to