

tion to him. I asked him: "Why in the world haven't you got conscription in Northern Ireland? They have it throughout Great Britain." Do you know what his reply was? He said: "We won't have it. Do you think we are going to allow those Scotch people and those English people and those Welsh people to force us to do what we don't want to do? They can't do that, and they daren't do it. If they try to do it, we will fight." This Irish gentleman went on to say: "We don't need any conscription. We have no men left to be conscripted, because all our men are in the fighting forces now, and have been there for a long time. They have been fighting in Singapore, Malaya, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, all over the desert and everywhere else. Some of these men are desert rats. So we don't need conscription, and we won't have it." Now, whether he is right or wrong, I do not know. If my honourable friend from St. Jean Baptiste has any doubt about it, there is another Irishman sitting somewhere on the other side—

Hon. Mr. MOLLOY: Right here.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I say to my honourable friend from St. Jean Baptiste: Ask him what is the position in Northern Ireland, and why it is that way. He will give you a very much better answer than I can, for I do not know the facts.

I wish from now on to deal—

Hon. Mr. MOLLOY: Will the honourable gentleman permit me?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Yes.

Hon. Mr. MOLLOY: I might say that there was no conscription in Southern Ireland either, and about 200,000 men from there have enlisted in the British Army.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Yes.

Hon. Mr. MOLLOY: The answer Mr. Churchill made when he was asked about conscription in Northern Ireland was that if conscription were applied it would do more harm than good.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Yes. Notice Mr. Churchill's words, "It would do more harm than good" to put conscription into force in Northern Ireland. If the gentleman to whom I have referred was correct in his statement, the great bulk of the men who would have been taken by conscription had already gone into the British Army.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Would not that apply also to England and Scotland, before conscription was put into effect?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: No. Conscription went into effect in Great Britain the day war was declared.

An Hon. SENATOR: Before.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: No, not before the war started. The law was enacted before the war started, but it was not put into effect then; that is my understanding.

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: That is right.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I propose to get a little closer to the question now actually at issue here on Parliament Hill. Before doing so I must make reference to the declaration of war by Parliament some time early in September, 1939. All members of Parliament were present; they were here, in both Houses of Parliament, from every province of Canada. Every man knew why he was here. If my recollection is correct, every member of Parliament joined in that declaration of war. We must assume that they knew exactly what they were doing and all that war meant. Yet every member in that Parliament—the last Parliament, not this one—joined in the declaration of war. Every senator here knows exactly why we went into the war. No honourable member regrets that we went into it; I am quite confident of that. We were fighting for a real, definite, well-understood purpose. I ask you, honourable gentlemen, "Is that not correct?" I am sure your answer will be, "Yes, it is correct." When we joined in making that declaration at that time we knew exactly what we were going to fight for, and not one single member of that Parliament, either here or in the Commons, made any suggestion as to the extent of our war effort, the manner in which the war should be conducted, the forces to be used, how they should be raised, or anything of that sort—not one single member of Parliament at that time did anything in order to modify or change or restrict the Government in the slightest degree. In other words, at that time the Government were given power—not in the declaration itself, I suppose, but probably by the introduction of the War Measures Act—to wage war relentlessly against the enemy. I think you will agree with that. They were given power, without restriction of any kind, to do just what I have said. I think necessarily so; and personally I approve entirely of what Parliament did at that time.

Well with what result? Parliament adjourned, and the members of the Government got busy. They had to get busy: it was war. They got busy with their plans—I am speaking now only of the war effort of the Government—and their military officers everywhere got