

Suppose our strength were added to that of the American Republic, our arms added to theirs, our taxes supporting their taxes to maintain the defence of North America. Would one feel as happy then as one can feel to-day if by that time Britain's power had been destroyed? We occupy here a vast portion of this continent, and we are only ten and a half millions of people. On the whole American continent there are but 200,000,000. Across the seas there are a billion and a half in crowded and denuded lands. With the power of Britain fractured, should we like the opportunity of joining hands with the United States to defend this continent? Should we think that a more comfortable position than we are in to-day? I think not. Had we not, then, better give some attention to the subject of British co-operation? I read the Prime Minister's speech at Geneva from beginning to end and I never found in it a word of appreciation of Britain's position, of the struggles of that country over these past years to hold the world in peace; never a word spoken of our affiliation and obligation there that could not have been spoken by an American citizen. Has not the time come when perhaps we had better give serious consideration, in our own interests, to some comprehensive working arrangement for defence in co-operation with the Empire to which we belong? Is it not better for us to do so now? Can we afford indefinitely to delay?

This serious thought I leave with the Administration. We are not living now in the time we were living in just twelve years ago or at the close of the War. We then felt we could rest in the arms of what we chose to describe as collective security. I am afraid that feelings of discouragement have taken possession of my soul on this subject of collective security. The Prime Minister at Geneva said: "We are here to study the import and to see if we cannot change to advantage the terms of the covenant." Why, what is left of the covenant? Trade sanctions are gone, proved ineffective—declared ineffective by the Prime Minister, and I find no fault with his declaration. Military sanctions have never been in existence since fifteen years ago. All that is left is an aspiration on the part of peace-loving nations. The Prime Minister's best hope for the destiny of the League of Nations, as expressed in his own words, is that it may become a haven of hope for the distressed people of the world. I do not say that is the only hope for its destiny, but I do say that as a security to lean upon for the time being it is gone, and some other security must be found. It has been swept aside by events that

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

have transpired over the last two years. It is in another world we are living to-day. Because we are distant many miles from the scene of trouble, because we have peaceful neighbours, do not let these things deceive us. I am not afraid of some dispute away down in Bolivia, or something which you can call a "dispute" in any part of the world. All that I am afraid of is a great convulsion, and we know the meaning of that word and its terror, and we had better act with some sense of the significance of that word and try to develop our policy with awful memories as our aid.

I have spoken this only from the standpoint of a Canadian. No argument need be advanced which will not mean as much to our newest immigrant as it does to our British-born, but it is also true that a vast section of our country, perhaps not all our English-speaking, but a vast majority, harbour in their souls such an affection for the Old Land and such a pride in its history that, aside from their own interests, they never would see that land destroyed without an effort of their own to protect it. No policy can be pursued in this Dominion that contemplates isolation and desertion, because such policy would split this Dominion in twain. I know no such policy is under consideration by the Administration. My greatest fear is that no policy of any kind is very seriously under their review, and my one purpose is to urge that they develop something that meets the needs of these heavy and crowded times; that they think the matter through; that they come right up to realities and avoid all those altruisms and ambiguities with which they are prone to fill their speeches merely by way of escape from formidable facts. This is a message, honourable members, which I wish to impress earnestly upon the Administration.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable members, may I congratulate this House on the appointment of my honourable friend who moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne (Hon. Mr. Hugessen). A brilliant member of the Bar of Montreal, he has already shown during his short public career that he is thoroughly familiar with all matters that engross the minds of our people and particularly of our public men. I thank the right honourable leader on the other side (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) for having spoken so appreciatively of the honourable gentleman's entrance to this Chamber. I agree with him that the honourable senator from Inkerman gives promise of a very useful career as a member of this House. I desire also to thank my right honourable friend for his