

having crossed this country twice in the last several months and met a large number of people, I know there is a great deal of criticism, much of it in all probability not well founded, but it is there because this parliament has not thoroughly gone into every detail of our war effort, as perhaps we ought to have done.

The leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) contrasts our own war effort with that of Australia. We of this little group have always held the view that Canada's best contribution can be made, not in raising large bodies of men and sending them overseas, but in organizing our industrial strength so that, without profit to any individual, we can provide Great Britain with quantities of equipment, when air raids have devastated industries and made it difficult for her to provide for herself; and that, it seems to me, is still the best effort, by a long way, that we can make. Moreover, I would go so far as to say that, if we adopt that policy, much of this production should be a gift from Canada rather than an account which some day we shall collect.

May I also say in this regard that it would be well if the government paid some heed to criticisms which are being made, in another particular, of the lend-lease bill in the United States. I have heard United States commentators say that Great Britain is asking of the United States something which Canada is not giving; that she is asking their country to lease-lend equipment, but that she is paying for all the equipment she receives from Canada. Obviously that is not true, but I have heard nothing that offsets that argument, and I have heard it repeated on a number of occasions over various United States networks as I have listened to the Washington news at night. They are networks to which our people in Canada listen, as I often do when I am at home myself. It conveys an utterly wrong picture of what this country is doing, because we are maintaining at our own expense a comparatively large force across the seas in Britain and Iceland as well as in the outlying parts of this continent; and at the moment we are supplying that force with large quantities of equipment.

The leader of the opposition made a comparison with Australia.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Not a comparison; I simply said what Australia was doing.

Mr. COLDWELL: The leader of the opposition praised Australia. I, too, would join in that praise of our sister dominion. She has done a remarkable job. But I wonder how many in this house know that the smaller

[Mr. Coldwell.]

dominion of New Zealand, with a population of less than 1,000,000, has done relatively more than Australia, has done relatively more than any of our British dominions. Is this not significant; for that country has had in power for the last six years a labour government, a government which at Geneva, on every occasion during those years, protested against the desertion of the principles of collective security by the great powers and urged that the security of New Zealand, as of every other nation, depended upon such collective effort.

We have witnessed in the last two years, ever since we guaranteed the Polish boundaries on March 31, 1939, an attempt to rebuild some system of collective security which we had failed to preserve when we had an opportunity to preserve it in bygone years.

One other observation I would make, and I would draw this particularly to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). Most of the members of the present New Zealand government opposed the last war. A number of them spent a good deal of the war-time period in the gaols of New Zealand because they were conscientious objectors opposed to the war of that day; and there are many people in Canada and across the seas who, having watched the attitudes of the governments of the world before this war came upon us, feared that those governments were much more interested in preventing the rise of progressive movements in Europe than in preserving democracy in that hemisphere. But now, when the battle is joined and the leadership towards a greater measure of democracy is apparent in the nation which heads this great effort, these fears have to a large extent been removed, although not entirely, from the minds of most of our people.

I said that a great struggle was ahead of us. Those of us, and I am one, who have near relatives in the very heart of this great struggle, hear from time to time their reactions to what is going on. At the present time I have right in the city of London a sister whose home has been partly destroyed by bombs. But the thing that heartens and cheers me is that, in spite of all that they are going through, there is no weakening of the morale of the people. They are determined that there shall be but one end to this great struggle, and that one end is the destruction of all that threatens us to-day.

I believe that at last we are preparing for the task which lies immediately ahead of us. These preparations must be speeded up, and in all the criticisms that we have made and shall make of the government in this regard, that will be the thought in our minds; for, after all, in a democratic chamber it would be