

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

bear the wounds of war for the rest of their life, as evidence of the part this country has played in the first test of the collective strength of the United Nations.

In Canada and in the rest of the free world the satisfaction that is felt that the aggressor has been stopped at the point where aggression began should not obscure the terrible tragedy that has befallen the people of that troubled land and the division of their own country into two parts, which separate people of one race and in many cases of the same family. However, for the present aggression has been stopped and we must all hope that in God's good time, by means which as yet may be clear to no one, Korea and other nations now divided in that way will be united to live as one people in peace and harmony with their neighbours.

In addition to those forces which will remain in Korea, we have many young men and women in Britain, in Europe and on the high seas taking their full share in that partnership of peaceful strength, which we all so earnestly hope may prevent the unspeakable tragedy of a third world war. I have had the privilege of visiting units of our air force, our army and our navy at distant points beyond our own shores and I can testify to the splendid spirit and excellent manner in which they are fulfilling the duties assigned to them.

We have been told in the speech from the throne that it is likely that it will be necessary for some time to maintain these forces. Everything points in that direction. Nevertheless, it is comforting to realize that for the first time in more than three years no Canadian armed forces are at present engaged in actual combat. Let us hope that this continues until the day comes when the result of collective action reaches another stage and we shall see a reduction in the armed forces and the armament we must maintain.

True, it is difficult to see into the distant future and visualize how release from the threat of war may come about. I was greatly struck by the words of President Eisenhower in the magnificent speech he made to us on Saturday, when he said, in effect, that if we are firm and keep our faith we may have reason to hope that just as victory emerged from all the uncertainty of 1940 and 1941, so, too, we may once again see events shape themselves in a manner that we cannot now foresee.

History seldom repeats itself in the same form, but history does teach us that faith and fortitude cannot be measured in terms of cold arithmetic and that if the free nations of the world stand firm today, then we have

reason to hope that once again God may guide men along paths which they themselves cannot now see, and that the strength of our decent purpose may bring peace, security and happiness, not only to ourselves, but to those now enslaved.

All the arithmetic of war was against the possibility of victory for Britain and the commonwealth in 1940 and 1941; but there was expressed a confidence and faith, and there was shown a fortitude which was evidenced by the events that came in 1941, and the years that followed. Let us all hope that faith and fortitude may receive the same reward in the months and years ahead.

Another expression of hope came two weeks ago from that incomparable interpreter of events, Sir Winston Churchill, when he said that perhaps we have reached a time when the power of destruction is so great that no nation will be prepared to use the dreadful weapons man has devised. These were his words:

I have sometimes the odd thought that the annihilating character of these agencies may bring an utterly unforeseeable security to mankind.

He then went on to use typical Churchillian words when he said:

When the advance of destructive weapons enables everyone to kill everybody else no one will want to kill anyone at all.

And we may in some measure see some hope in the picture created in that way.

We have one parallel which supports this hope that the terrible possibilities of nuclear destruction may limit the use of those weapons. There are several in this chamber who will remember with what horror the world suddenly learned in April of 1915 that the German army had for the first time in history used poisonous gas as a military weapon. I doubt if any greater horror was felt in August, 1945, when we learned of the terrible events at Hiroshima and Nagasaki than was expressed in 1915. It was realized that this new weapon was added to the armoury of war. During the first world war new gases were invented with new and terrible powers. Dreadful though war always is, there was something peculiarly loathsome about that new horror.

When the second world war came, heavy casualties were expected from the new and still more terrible gases that had then been developed. There are many in this chamber who will remember so well that, for years, they carried gas masks on all occasions, anticipating the use of this dreadful weapon. Yet, throughout the whole of that war there appears to be no recorded case of gas being used as a military weapon on the field of