

275898

2678

COMMONS C

this statement can be disputed. In order to back it up further I should like to read a short statement under the heading, "Did they engineer the Munich pact?" which appeared in the *Western Producer* of November 10, 1938. It reads:

Whyte Williams, former foreign news correspondent and editor of *Greenwich Time*, published last week a list of those whom he claimed were twelve leading members of a London group who purportedly arranged the peace of Munich between Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Fuehrer Adolf Hitler. The list included:

Montagu Norman, governor of the Bank of England and member of the board of the *London Times*.

Lord Lothian, formerly Phillip Kerr, private secretary of Lloyd George at the Versailles peace conference, and first of the group to visit Nazi Germany.

Lady Guinness, in whose salon reich foreign minister von Ribbentrop first contacted London society.

Lord and Lady Astor.

Mr. Tiarks, of the international banking house of Henry Schroeder.

Marquess of Londonderry, unofficial observer of the group at the Munich conference.

Lord Brockett, who was reported to have visited Hitler the day before the latter's Nuremberg speech and later made a private report to Chamberlain.

Sir Josiah Stamp, noted economist who was said to have attended the Nuremberg rally to study.

Baron Harry Duncan McGowan, who followed the late Lord Melchett as chairman of the Imperial Chemical Industries.

Lord Clyde.

Sir Henri Deterding, head of the Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company, and leader in world affairs.

This is a very serious question, and one which I believe cannot be intelligently discussed by many of us because we have not access to the actual facts. We have information which perhaps we are not able to interpret correctly, but we do not know accurately the causes underlying the several problems that are arising and creating trouble all over the world. My plea to this government and to the governments of other countries is to get busy and assume their responsibilities and prevent war.

I have a verse here, Mr. Speaker, which I picked up a few weeks ago, and which in conclusion I should like to read. It is headed, *And Still We Suffer*, and reads:

So there will be another war  
And we must fight just as before,  
Once more the peace of England must be  
shattered,  
Our homes, friends and relations must be  
scattered.  
Each man must kill, and, as a just reward,  
His blood will stain the war fields tragic  
sward.

[Mr. Fair.]

Ten million Englishmen must die in vain,  
Five million more must end their days in  
pain,  
As hopeless cripples—ruined men—they will  
return,  
What dreadful lessons these men have to  
learn.

Is life so cheap? Can we afford to waste it?  
Is the blood lust so sweet that every man  
should taste it?

Should we all fight, and try to kill each  
other?

We suffered the last war—why must we have  
another?

Mr. W. R. MACDONALD (Brantford City):

Mr. Speaker, it is with great hesitancy that I rise to address the house on this very important question. After listening to the all-embracing address of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) yesterday and to that of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) to-day, one must indeed be bold to express in this house any further opinions on the subject.

But in speaking to-day I am speaking in the cause of peace which, I am convinced, must be the aim of every true Canadian and of every true Britisher. We must prepare for peace. If peace is impossible, then we must be prepared to defend this great country, our native land. Whether that defence must be on the shores of Canada or in a foreign land, we must give all in our power to that defence. Peace, I say, must be our aim. My heart bleeds to-day for the fathers and mothers throughout this land who have sons of or nearing military age, those parents who fear that any day a great catastrophe may come upon this country, and their sons be called upon to defend democracy. Therefore we should put forth the greatest effort in our power for peace so that our sons may never again be forced to go to war to defend the principles which we love.

At one time Canada could have stayed aloof from the rest of the world, but conditions as they have developed in recent years have brought this dominion within a few hours travel from the centre of Europe, which at any moment may become a deadly volcano. At this very hour peace is still in doubt, and it is difficult to be optimistic. Should war break out in Europe, there is no doubt in my mind but that Canada will be drawn into it. Therefore we must be prepared to defend our shores.

During the last few years there has been criticism of our defence department. There should be no criticism of that department. I want to pay tribute to this government and to our Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie) for the great effort which the government, and his department in particular, have made to strengthen our defences. Great

C 275899

MARCH 31, 1939

2679

strides have been made during the time this government has been in office. Prior to that, the defence estimates were being reduced year by year. I do not blame the former administration. I blame the lethargy of the Canadian people, who were not aware of the dangers. They were not aware that the enemy might be at the gate.

I want at this time to pay tribute also to our militia forces for the splendid way in which they have done their work despite public opinion. These militia units throughout our cities, towns and rural districts, with defence estimates reduced, had very little money with which to build up their organization, to purchase their supplies, and to give their officers and men the necessary training, and yet the militia men stood fast to their task. They did and are doing a service to Canada for which we should be truly grateful.

During the last decade we have been saying that we do not want to become involved in European affairs. We have stated: Do not bother us about foreign affairs; let us get down to work; let us attend to our own business. Individuals have rights, but individuals have also responsibilities. Individualism built up this country, but to hold it we must have cooperation. That cooperation should prevail not only within Canada but by Canada with the other dominions of the empire. If war comes, one hundred per cent empire unity is imperative, and that involves one hundred per cent cooperation on the part of Canada. I am convinced that that cooperation must exist if we are to continue to live under the union jack with the security of home and of our long cherished principles. Public opinion must be aroused to the dangers which threaten this hard-earned security. Let no part of Canada think it can be isolated from Europe when war breaks out.

I have said that our defence forces had been allowed to deteriorate on account of the lethargy of our people. I believe that to-day there is a reawakening among our people, and that they are beginning to realize how close we are to that terrible sore-spot in Europe. Public opinion, as I say, must be aroused to the danger which threatens our national security: I am satisfied that if the people of Canada realized how open they are to attack there would be but one opinion from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and that opinion would be to arm to defend our shores.

In an eloquent address this afternoon the Minister of Justice demonstrated the impossibility of Canada remaining neutral in a world conflict which involves Great Britain. Truly neutrality under such conditions would be a vain hope. As the minister observed, British

and foreign ships would come to this country, and if we were neutral the ships of both Britain and her enemies would have to be seized. Such a situation would be impossible.

The question then arises, where is Canada's first line of defence? Is it along our own shores, or is Canada's first line of defence further away? I ask, what would happen if Great Britain were defeated in a foreign land? Would there be any hope for Canada? We are happy to have to the south of us a great, peace-loving neighbour, whose president joined this past summer with our own great, peace-loving Prime Minister in giving assurances for the maintenance of security and peace for both our nations. We derive a certain measure of security from that great power to the south. We have also enjoyed much security from another great nation, Great Britain. We have had the protection of the British navy. Sometimes I wonder whether we have done our part in this regard. It was stated the other day, I believe by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler), that Canada is the fourth trading nation of the world. If that is so, does it not behoove us to defend the ships which ply back and forth, carrying our commerce; have we not some duty to perform; can we rely entirely upon the British navy or upon such help as might be rendered by our friendly neighbour to the south? We owe a great deal to Great Britain; and it has occurred to me that since the president of the United States, which so far as we are concerned is a foreign country, has said that nation would not stand aside if we were attacked by a foreign foe, can we, in view of the great blessings and unfailing help which we have derived from the British empire and the British navy, do less for the mother country if it is attacked than the United States might do for us?

As I said at the outset, all our efforts to-day must be directed toward the maintenance of peace. Everyone knows that is the aim and object of Great Britain. Her Prime Minister has said that he loves peace to the very depths of his soul. The dangers which menace the world to-day do not come from any desire on the part of Great Britain to gain territory or to deprive any foreign nation of its rights and privileges. The only danger of armed conflict to-day results from the desire of a foreign dictator to gain power by means of force. No country has any intention of attacking Germany. We do not wish to attack; we will simply defend what we have. We desire no more territory. We have no ambition to control any other country. We want to live

57-1939-24