

government exists in the old land. We have extended that system to the Dominions; we have it here. Perhaps we will have a responsible Senate in this country before long, and when we have we will have complete parliamentary government in Canada.

Passing from that, I wish to look at this question from the point of view of the American continent. Our neighbours to the south of us, one hundred and fifty years ago almost, began to work out a democratic government or a parliamentary government, in their country, and they succeeded largely in doing so. They have democratic institutions there. They have a constitution and while it is limited it is based largely on the principle of parliamentary government and of the popular will being carried out. But just to show how it is connected up with this situation, and to make my point clearer, I want to bring the attention of the people of Canada and the United States to the menace that the military system of Germany is to these democratic institutions that we have on this continent, that we have in Canada, and to make my point I am going to read just a few sentences from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg speech delivered in 1863:

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

After four score years' experience of democratic government in the United States, Abraham Lincoln said that it was a question whether these institutions could long endure because of the dissension that existed within the Union at that time. If they were in danger then from an internal dissension I say they are in greater danger to-day in view of this menace from Germany. The last sentence of that speech—and it is the greatest little short political speech in history, it is a classic, it is a cameo in the way in which it is cut—is in these words:

From these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause, for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

If that menace threatened the great American Republic almost fifty years ago, if government of the people, by the people,

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for the people, was menaced then through internal disorders, much more so is that system of popular government menaced to-day if the Germans should succeed, because they are against government by the people, for the people. They are in favour of a government that is irresponsible. They are in favour of a parliament made up largely of landowners and noblemen not responsible to the people and if Germany should succeed in this attack that she is making on England and the Allies, she intends to turn the world upside down with respect to government, and to substitute an aristocratic government, an irresponsible king and an irresponsible chamber, even though it be called a House of Commons, composed of landowners and the nobility. It is this which not only menaces Europe, but menaces the democracy of the United States; it is one of the menaces that Lincoln foresaw when he made that prophecy in 1863. I avail myself of the opportunity of my position in this House to appeal to those who speak our language, living to the south of us, to remember that they are as much concerned in maintaining democratic institutions and parliamentary government as we are, and that the great menace to them, as well as to us, lies in the military autocracy that the Germans are preaching. I believe it is our duty as public men to point out that the great democratic people of America should be upholding with us the idea of parliamentary government. And, Sir, I appeal not only to the Americans, but even to the German people themselves. They have been threatening since this war began to impose German "Kultur" and the German military system on us. Suppose we meet that by saying: We will try and help to get you free parliamentary institutions; and, if Germany had free parliamentary institutions and democratic government as we have, there would be no menace such as to-day beclouds the entire world. We ought to try and impress upon these missionaries who are now in the United States preaching the German "Kultur" system, that the only honourable thing for Germany to do is to adopt parliamentary democratic government and abolish the autocratic system. There it is where peace lies, and it is from that angle we should seek for a way to appeal to the great mass of the German people, and to tell them that permanent peace will only come when the parliamentary system prevails in Ger-