

is that this competitive arming cannot continue indefinitely without some terrible crash coming. If what hon. members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation group say is true, that competitive arming means war, then war on a colossal scale is inevitable, and it is surely time that we begin to see that our country should be in a position to protect itself against possible contingencies arising out of such a situation.

Do they say, holding the convictions they do, that we should sit by and do nothing to defend our shores, our harbours, our shipping terminals, our great centres against contingencies of a kind that may arise?

Let me read what one gentleman who is not an alarmist and who has had a very strong faith in the League of Nations feels about the world situation to-day. I quote from Mr. John W. Dafoe, president and editor of the Winnipeg Free Press. I imagine Mr. Dafoe has been as strong a supporter of the league as any man in Canada and that he is as little given to exaggeration as any student of international affairs. Speaking in Toronto only a few days ago Mr. Dafoe said:

It is not possible to be optimistic. If the piling up of armaments, the regimentation of people and the constant interchange of threats between nations must continue, war is inevitable, given time, and perhaps it will come sooner rather than later. Why is the world in its present condition? Because we have reverted to the pre-war conception of relationships between nations. The post-war idea of the keeping of peace being an obligation upon all nations has been submerged. It may return of course but for the time being that great idea has vanished from the world and we are back to a conception that excludes all considerations of morality in international relationships.

There is one Canadian speaking out of his knowledge of conditions and careful study over many years. Let me read—and it is the only other quotation I shall give in this connection—what another public man of great experience in world affairs has been saying about the situation as he sees it. Mr. Lloyd George gave an interview before he left the West Indies in which he stated his view of the present situation and where it was likely to lead. This was on February 5:

The world is going mad. At the present moment we are spending \$1,500,000,000 on armaments. Ten years ago the entire world spent \$3,500,000,000 for armaments, now it is spending \$12,500,000,000. They have almost quadrupled it in the past ten years and it is still going up. You must have followed what is happening in Europe to-day, nations are arming again. Within ten years the world armaments have trebled and are on the way to be quadrupled all within ten years. It is going on at an accelerating pace, Europe is thoroughly scared, they are frightened of war, all the

prayers for peace which you hear everywhere are drowned by the ring of the anvil, countless anvils hammering out the most terrible machinery of war that has ever been invented.

I give these quotations not to alarm the country but to bring home to hon. members some appreciation of the obligation that rests on the government of this country at this time. I ask any hon. member of this house, no matter from what part of the country he comes, if you were in the position of responsibility that I am in to-day, would you do nothing? Would you stand here and tell your fellow countrymen that in the light of statements such as these and in the light of the situation as we all know it, there was no need to do anything in preparation for what may take place later on, I ask this, particularly after having heard the statement made by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie) as to the present position of Canada's defences. I must say that I regret very much that the Minister of National Defence found it necessary to tell the house the condition in which the defence forces of this country find themselves at the present time. It does not strengthen our country to have the weak spots in its armour known all over the world. But apparently something of the kind was necessary to persuade hon. members generally that there was need for replacement of obsolete armaments and equipment, that there was need for making good necessary stores and inadequate supplies, that there was need for something being done to cope with new methods of warfare from the air as well as on land and sea.

Let me answer one question at once. We are asked: What good is the little you are doing, in the teeth of a threatening world situation such as you have described? Why waste the money? If we were without friends, if we were not part of a world seeking to preserve its liberties, I would say it would be quite useless to do anything. But fortunately there are many countries that still love liberty; fortunately there are still many democracies in the world, and I believe we can rely upon many other countries doing their part, if we are prepared to do ours, in meeting the dangers of any situation which may affect this part of the world.

May I point out that undoubtedly Canada is the most secure of all countries. Fortunately, geographically we are better situated than most countries. Fortunately, by nature perhaps we are richer in resources than any other country of comparable size. Fortunately, we have no neighbours to the north, and to the south of us we have the best of