

chancellor, Dollfuss, and imprisoning Schuschnigg, who as far as we know is still in prison if he is not dead. These two men were crucified by Hitler and his nazi followers for the crime of loving their country and desiring its freedom. Then he destroyed Czecho-Slovakia, putting the Prussian heel on the neck of that democratic little country, and now it is his desire to make Poland the next victim.

As we know, Poland has had a tragic history. One can go back to the last quarter of the eighteenth century and find that Poland was partitioned three times. Incidentally the leader in those partitions was Germany, supported by Russia and Austria. Those of us who have studied the life of Napoleon will remember that on his first trip to Warsaw he was petitioned by the Polish people to declare Poland a nation. We recall the sacrifice of beauty and purity on that altar of national desire; and during all the decades since Napoleon first visited Warsaw hopes for national re-creation have sprung eternal in the breasts of the Poles. Then after a century of national aspiration the treaty of Versailles, following the last war, re-created Poland, much in the likeness of the great country it had been prior to the partitions of the eighteenth century, and since Poland has been re-created it has become a great and proud state. Now this international gangster demands that Poland submit to him or be destroyed. He refuses anything in the way of conciliation or negotiation with the Poles themselves, who naturally are most vitally interested. He demands total submission, and his alternative is destruction. That is the choice he has placed before the Poles. They must give up their nation, even their nationality; they must give up their liberty; they must submit to Prussian dictation, and all this is demanded with the example of the Czechs and the Slovaks before their very eyes. They have refused. I believe it was the only choice that could be made by free men. Most people who have enjoyed freedom would prefer death to slavery. The Poles deserve success, and if they do not get it justice indeed must be blindfolded.

Then France and Britain proffered aid, in accordance with their pledges. They could not do otherwise, nor can we do otherwise if we wish to possess our own souls. In this war, sir, we line up with Britain and France, and with mercy, justice and righteousness. Surely we may be confident of the outcome; for, sir, we must win. If we do not I believe there will be little else that matters. If Hitler and his philosophy conquer the world, civilization itself is likely to disappear, and the liberties

for which our ancestors fought for a thousand years will go with it. Patrick Henry, a great American patriot, on one occasion said:

Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

Poland might well say that to-day, and we in unison with Poland; for if the war is lost the lights of civilization are indeed going out. But I believe we may with confidence repeat the prayer so eloquently expressed on Sunday last by His Majesty the King, when he said:

We may reverently commit our cause to God.

Let us remember, sir, that if the democracies fall, Canada is the richest prize among the nations of the world. We should remember as well that this Canada of ours is very vulnerable to attack in these ultra-scientific days. Last session from my place in the house I pointed out the dangers that I saw enveloping Canada if some great nation should defeat England and France, or even if some great nation, without defeating England and France, should succeed in getting one of its liners or its fairly heavy ships through the barricade of the British and French navies and come across the Atlantic or the Pacific to our shores. I pointed out the dangers on the Pacific, the dangers on the Atlantic, the dangers up the St. Lawrence river, and particularly the dangers down into James bay, from which point this city is less than six hundred miles distant. All the cities and towns of Canada between the city of Quebec on the east and the city of Winnipeg on the west are within that distance of Charlton island in James bay, and to-day six hundred miles is a very short trip for bombarding aeroplanes.

Therefore I say that this is the danger to Canada if we are not properly protected. If the democracies should be defeated the battle ground might well be at our own gates instead of being three thousand miles away across the Atlantic, as it is to-day. I submit that our best defence is an offensive in those far-off lands. Our home defences, as I said last session, should be strengthened; for we need a real defence force in this day's world.

Now, sir, following these brief general statements in regard to the causes for which Canada is going to war, together with Britain and France, before resuming my seat I should like to offer, as the hon. member for Algoma West in particular offered, what I conceive to be a few practical suggestions concerning matters of which I have some knowledge, and I am offering them in a constructive and advisory way. The hon. member for Algoma West and the hon. member for Compton mentioned the very