

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: This is pertinent only because the truth is pertinent, and will ever be pertinent, that the big issue is not here; it is over there. German submarines along the Atlantic coast may be suppressed or destroyed: that does not make Canada secure save for the moment. The final security of our country stands or falls by the success of the arms of Britain and of France. Keep ever before you those words of the Minister of Justice. Shame on the land which says, "We accept our defence from you, but if you look to us to help you in the most crucial struggle that ever the world has seen, you look in vain."

Are there those who, abandoning all sense of obligation—I had almost said, all sense of decency and honour—would say, "Even though those nations fall we can scuttle from under their wing to the wing of another"? One must be very careful in the words one employs on this phase of the present issue. Another nation to the south has its rights, as sacred as our own. It is the judge of its own obligations and interests. It is a great, friendly, and powerful neighbour. What its course will be I will not venture to predict, but I will say this: it is only human nature that the course of that great Republic will not be uninfluenced by the conduct of this Dominion, its northern neighbour.

An Hon. SENATOR: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: But can we look forward, even if we are of the spirit to do so, to such an alternative? Let us get together and seriously think. I have heard it said that the duty of that Republic, in fact the duty of this continent, is to keep the war away from us so that we may preserve the treasures of civilization. Yes, I should like the war to be kept away from us; it is very, very important that it should be; but I do not know any means of keeping the war away from us except to defeat those who, if they are not defeated, would bring the war over here.

An Hon. SENATOR: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: There is a way to save the treasures of civilization. So far as my mind can carry me, there is only one way, and that is to defeat the destroyers of civilization.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That is, to see that Britain and France come triumphant through this struggle.

If it is permissible for us to peer into the future, let us inquire just what the situation would be in the event we must provide

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

against, which we hate even to contemplate, and which we do not believe will occur—the defeat of the Allied Powers. I read somewhere just a few days ago an article—I will not permit myself to mention the name of the writer, but he is a man of eminence—giving expression to the sentiment that he could contemplate without despair the destruction of Great Britain and of France. The efforts of the dictators, he said, in bringing about that destruction would so exhaust them that this continent would be safe for a quarter of a century. Meditating on that pronouncement, I do not know whether I should express astonishment at its callousness or at its stupidity. Germany, defeated in the last war, beaten to her knees, stripped of her arms, rose from that prostration and in ten years was a threat to the world. Will anyone tell us that Germany as she may be to-morrow, with contractual allies standing at her side, Germany triumphant, Germany with the resources of her victims at her feet, able to levy on the most virile and the richest people the world has ever known, would not at once be a menace? Can anybody imagine this war ending with her triumph and there remaining a single Atlantic island now in the possession of Britain or France that would not be a German possession? I do not mention Canada. You can judge of the fate of this country just as you like. Leave it aside for the moment. Just picture to your minds German occupation of the West Indies, the Cape Verdes—all those Atlantic territories and bases of air warfare. Do you say, "We will not permit their occupation by another power"? I know the Republic to the south cannot countenance their occupation by another power. I know the policy of that country from its birth has been to deny the right of cession of those islands and to consider the taking of them by another power as a hostile act. And that country in such policy is absolutely right. Therefore—and this is all I ask you to accept—imagine, if you will, the day when the forces of Germany crush to the ground the forces of Britain and of France: then, not in twenty-five years, nor in twenty-five hours, but at once the battle must be taken up by the arms of this continent. The burden on this continent then will be as much on the backs of Canadians as on the backs of the citizens of the country to the south. If we are a free people then, we shall know certainly what a burden is, we shall know what a struggle is. We could not get within two thousand miles of the homeland of our foe, and he would be at our doors. All I premise is this: the tremendous task we stand in front of now