

which the hon. gentleman has mentioned, but I am not in a position to make any statement with reference to it.

LABOUR DISPUTES

MCKINNON INDUSTRIES STRIKE AND CAPE BRETON COAL MINERS SLOW-DOWN STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. KARL K. HOMUTH (Waterloo South): Is it the intention of the Minister of Labour to give the house during the present session reports on the McKinnon Industries strike and the slow-down strike of coal miners in Nova Scotia?

Hon. N. A. McLARTY (Minister of Labour): I think as the business of the house progresses a statement can be given if desired in connection with both these matters.

THE WAR

REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL SITUATION SINCE JUNE 14, 1941

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the review of the war which I gave to the house just before its adjournment on June 14 last, I sought to impress upon hon. members that it was inevitable that the existing conflict between the forces of aggression and the defenders of freedom would continue to spread from nation to nation, from ocean to ocean, and from continent to continent. Since the middle of June, the war has grown in intensity and extent. Threats have become realities; prophecies have been fulfilled, and fears have been turned into terrors.

The period of the parliamentary adjournment witnessed a vast expansion of the area of conflict in Europe; continuous, though desultory, fighting in north Africa; increasing tension and uncertainty over vast areas in Asia. In all the countries of north and south America, there has been growing concern as to the consequences of the struggle, immediate and remote, to themselves.

Two years of continuous aggression by Germany have made increasingly clear not only her pattern of aggression and the aim of her successive conquests, but, above all, the might of her military power. The organized strength and size of Germany's war machine is the all-important military factor in the world to-day. No doubt remains that world conquest is Germany's aim; there is equally no doubt her method of world conquest is intended to follow successive stages of military, economic and political control. All

peoples are beginning to perceive that behind the intrigues, the deceptions, and the horrors of nazi Germany and the revolting brutality of her methods of warfare, will be found plans and designs progressively developed from those which inspired and guided Prussian militarism under Bismarck and Wilhelm II. The war machine with which the forces of freedom are faced to-day is not only vaster in extent than anything hitherto conceived, but its sources of power are more deeply and firmly rooted.

Every conceivable means by which freedom can be crushed is to-day being employed by nazi Germany. We may expect that for some time yet her might will continue its sway, and violence and bloodshed on a growing scale be a part of the human lot. This is an appalling prospect. Until its ghastly potentialities are squarely faced in all quarters of the globe, the sufferings of humanity may be expected to increase.

Since our adjournment, the outstanding development has been, of course, the Russian campaign. It is scarcely possible to believe, but it is nevertheless true, that when we adjourned no one in authority could say whether, before we met again, Russia would be fighting at the side of Germany, or would be attacked by Germany, or whether her ultimate plans and intentions would continue to remain obscure. The real attitude of Russia to the war had been obscure ever since August, 1939, when she signed the non-aggression pact with nazi Germany. That agreement made it appear that Russia had become an ally of the aggressor nations. Up to the moment of the attack it was, I think, generally believed that war would not come between Germany and Russia. It seemed more probable that Russia would yield to German pressure, to an extent sufficient to afford Germany some accommodation, and at the same time enable Russia, for a still longer period, to remain out of the war altogether.

The fact that Hitler attacked Russia when he did, and as he did, may yet turn out to be the most important event of the whole war. To form an estimate of the significance of its consequences for other peoples and countries, we need only ask ourselves what the situation would be to-day had Hitler turned the might of nazi Germany's power elsewhere than upon the Soviet Union! I will not ask what the present situation might have been if the power which Russia has so magnificently exhibited in resisting Germany had, instead been joined with German power in attack upon Britain and British interests throughout the world. We must indeed be profoundly grateful to the Providence which has spared the British com-