

not wish to take any part in wars, claiming however that the construction of a drill hall in Hull would in no way affect a declaration of war on the part of Canada or Great Britain at a future time.

I have also a letter from The National Catholic Union. Then come the more sedate citizens in my city—the municipal council—who passed the following resolution, on the 1st February, 1937:

That this council supports the resolution passed by the Hull chamber of commerce under date of January 22, 1937, in connection with the building of a drill hall in Hull, and that copy of the present resolution be sent to Mr. Fournier, member of parliament.

Certified to be a true copy from the minutes of the Hull city council.

H.-Léon Leblanc,
Clerk.

The small property owners' association have no apprehension as to the building of a drill hall in our community. I am in receipt from them of a resolution requesting my support for the proposal. The Sons of Canada, a well-known organization in our country, passed a lengthy resolution giving their hearty support to the building of the drill hall, and adding: Even though a drill hall were built in Hull, do you think that the government shall at once declare a war or participate in a war? Not at all; I do not think so; no more than I am of the opinion that in passing the present estimates the government's intention is to declare a war on any one whatsoever or to take part in a foreign war. It requires far-fetched arguments to lead one to believe that such a slight increase of 15 million dollars may rouse the world to the extent of leading to a world war at the end of this session. I do not think so.

So as to forget none, I shall proceed. The most widely read paper in my own city is *Le Droit*, published in Ottawa. I have here an article under the signature of Mr. Henri Lessard who is in charge of the editorial page devoted to Hull. Mr. Lessard is not an imperialist; he is opposed to foreign wars, as well as to any expeditionary forces being sent for participation in a war in Great Britain, in Europe, or elsewhere. This is what he has to say:

The building of a drill hall in Hull would not necessarily mean a greater drive towards militarism or imperialism. In fact, for years past we have had in Hull a local regiment, a regiment which forms part of the non-permanent militia and of which our city is justly proud as a result of the fame this corps has won as well as for the part it takes in connection with our various public ceremonies, both civil and religious. The regiment is a French Canadian one.

[Mr. Fournier.]

The article from which I have just quoted is dated the 29th of January, when the national defence estimates were laid on the table of the house. Mr. Lessard concludes as follows:

We are surely not spoiled by the dominion government, whose seat is close to us; they know or should know what our requirements are. Let us hope that this time we shall be given more favourable consideration. It surely would not be once too many.

In all fairness to the author of that article, I may say that a few days ago he called me up over the phone and inquired as to what was my stand in connection with the debate now taking place. I replied that I was listening with an attention, at which I was wondering myself, to every speech delivered in the house and that I was endeavouring to find, in the arguments offered on both sides, a happy medium, in other words, such a solution as should be arrived at by a government fully aware of their responsibilities at the present time, in connection with military matters. Naturally, his telephone call is being answered to-day. I am in favour of the 14 million dollars increase. I do not want the government to continue along these lines next year, but having closely followed the debates in this house and knowing as I do the leaders of my party, I am safe in saying that they would be ashamed of the statements made by them since the opening of the session, had they not spoken the truth. In support of my contention, may I quote from a speech delivered by the leader of the Liberal party. I would rather believe in his words than in anything said by the members of C.C.F. group, or even by my colleagues in the Liberal party. This is what he tells us—believe it or not: I always believe a man until such time as I am satisfied that I am deceived by him. Then, we have what the right honourable the Prime Minister stated when speaking to the resolution moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth):

As far as the estimates presented to parliament at this session are concerned, any increase placed there has been only and solely because of what the government believe to be necessary for the defence of Canada, and for Canada alone.

And then:

No request of any kind has come from the British government to our government with respect to a single item that appears in the estimates as they have been brought down.

Would the Prime Minister mislead, not only the public, but the members of his own party? I do not think so. Would the honourable the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) involve us in a foreign war? I do not think he would.