

*Defence of Canada Regulations*

in time of peace. Every delay in time of war is deadly. This is what Napoleon said. It is now a fight to a finish. Either Germany is beaten or the British and French empires will end and crumble. The civilization and liberty for which our ancestors fought will be at an end. The history of Canada for the past five years has been one of wasted opportunity. We have neglected to carry on the necessary preparations and have been too late in everything. We have done nothing to help check Germany as that country smashed her way during the past three years from one grab to another. She went on with bluff, bluster and buncombe until to-day she challenges the very life and existence of Great Britain and France; she did it all on loans from the allies—and now vulture Mussolini helps. All along Canada has refused to face the fact that our very existence is in danger.

On June 5 I asked the government:

What was the tonnage and value of pig iron, scrap iron and copper exported by Canada to Germany, Russia, Japan and Italy for each of the years 1935 to 1939?

How many tons of coal of all kinds were imported into Canada from Germany and Russia respectively, annually from 1934 to the end of 1939?

These questions were answered by an order for return, and I have the return before me. It shows how these exports helped Germany and Russia to re-arm; they used it to kill our men. It would be an alarming thing for the people of Canada to see what we have been doing in sending scrap to our enemies.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, but the hon. gentleman's time has elapsed.

Mr. L. P. PICARD (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, the questions brought to the fore by the study of the defence of Canada regulations, proposed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in the motion now before the house, are not light ones. They are sufficiently important to deserve thorough survey and investigation by anyone who has at heart the freedom and liberty of our institutions and the successful conclusion of our war activities. This is one of the reasons that prompt me to express to this house a few of the thoughts which have come to my mind when considering the issues involved in these measures.

Canada is a free country, chiefly inhabited by the sons of two great liberty-loving nations which have contributed more than any other nations to the cause of freedom and individual liberty. They stand now as the two great democracies of Europe, risking all their wealth, human and material, to defend their ideals of civilization against the barbarous assaults of the totalitarian states. Canada, a free nation,

[Mr. Church.]

has joined the two countries that contributed to its birth in their crusade against the threat of slavery and the menace of despotism which overshadowed Europe at the time of the invasion of Poland. Canada is at war.

At a time like this we have to determine which of our liberties we will sacrifice temporarily in order to bring about the success of our cause. We must decide how we are to proceed to ensure the internal safety of our country, at the same time depriving our citizens of as few of their rights as possible. There is no doubt as to the necessity in time of war of suspending certain of our cherished privileges in order to combat new methods of warfare. If we are to benefit from the lessons given to us by the present conflict, it is time that we showed it. The sooner a committee of this house is set up to discuss the question and conscientiously examine the details of the defence of Canada regulations, the better. As the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) have already pointed out to us, representations have been made from two directions, some alleging that the regulations were too drastic, and others that they did not permit sufficiently energetic action to ensure internal safety. A fair study of the question by a committee and its subsequent report should help to clarify the situation and contribute to a better understanding of these necessary steps which were taken by the government on the eve of the war.

I am one of those who believe, Mr. Speaker, that at no time has the government acted so expeditiously to meet an urgent situation as when the present government caused to be drafted and passed the order in council of September 3, 1939, which embodies the special regulations for the defence of Canada, derived from the authority of the War Measures Act. I will go further. I think that any unbiased person who carefully reads the regulations and the amendments subsequently made will be forced to admit that the government has acted not only swiftly but wisely as well, and that it has thereby provided the country with the necessary means, under the War Measures Act, to cope with most of the situations arising out of the war, whether concerning the economic life of the country or its security against internal troubles and sabotage. Few people in the country yet appreciate the full scope of these measures, but had it not been for the far-sighted action of the government in passing them, many citizens would long ago have been experiencing griefs caused by the innumerable abuses that would have taken place chiefly in the economic sphere but which have been avoided by the regulations.