

long as the Militia and Defence Act permits the use thereof in foreign wars. I have never believed that this stupid armament race was ever intended for the protection of Canadian territory and Canadian territory alone. The existing Militia and Defence Act has always convinced me of the contrary. In the course of last session's debates I quoted the text of this act, which is in flagrant contradiction with the Statute of Westminster. Many times have we asked for an amendment, but always in vain. The act remains on our statute book, unchanged. Religious and patriotic societies; county, town, village and parish councils, have insisted on the necessary amendments, while an entire people raised strong protests against the assertions of imperialistic principles made in this house on March 20 last. In the course of the preceding week the county council of Two Mountains, to which I have had the privilege of belonging for many years past, unanimously adopted a resolution expressing its opposition to any military action other than for the defence of Canadian territory. Through the unanimous action of the mayors of its seventeen municipalities, the county of Deux-Montagnes also asked that the Militia and Defence Act be amended, so as to be made applicable expressly and exclusively to our territorial defence. Such a splendid example of true Canadianism should be an inspiration to those whose imperialistic sighs are so deep that they cannot be breathed fully in a free Canada. That is why I am making it a point to record into *Hansard* the resolution adopted by the corporation of the county of Deux-Montagnes, a resolution showing more firmness, clearness, plainness and eloquence than the imperialistic propaganda, which is founded on bondage and domination.

The Corporation of the County of  
Deux-Montagnes  
Sainte Scholastique, Que.  
14th March, 1939.

Mr. Liguori Lacombe, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Canada.

To whom it may concern:

Excerpt from the minutes of a regular meeting of the corporation of the county of Deux-Montagnes, held in Sainte Scholastique, on the 8th March, 1939, and attended by Messrs. Hervé Huserau, Joseph Lauzon, Philomire Filion, Edouard Castonguay, Omer Brunet, Maxime Charbonneau, Joseph Bourgeois, Frank Keyes, J. O. Charette, Gustave Labelle, Jean-Louis Cyr, Charles-Henri Giroux, Petrus Fortier, Liguori Lacombe, M.P., under the chairmanship of Mr. Ophnie Lalonde, mayor of Saint-Placide and newly elected prefect of the county.

Moved by Mr. Jean-Louis Cyr, seconded by Mr. Philomire Filion, and carried unanimously, that the council of the county of Deux-Montagnes declare itself fundamentally opposed to

any military action other than the defence of the Canadian territory, and to any military policy not expressly and exclusively designed to ensure the said territorial defence, and that the Canadian Militia and Defence Act be amended accordingly; and furthermore, that this council voice its opposition to any immigration whatever, and that copy of this resolution be forwarded to the proper authorities.

A true copy of the minute of these presents was filed in the county records.

J. Léo Beaudet,  
Secretary of the municipal council  
of the county of Deux-Montagnes.

Mr. Speaker, the armaments race is not only stupid but infamous. Let the news agencies with imperialistic leanings cease to depict rearmament as a cure for unemployment. England spends hundreds of millions in military preparations but unemployment, far from disappearing, is reaching in that country a total of over 1,800,000, an increase of 50,000 over 1938 and of 300,000 over 1937. On the other hand, while unemployment remains rampant heinous profiteers are becoming increasingly rich. Wealth is the privilege of a few company shareholders whose dividends attain a rate as stupendously high as 32 per cent. And employment is decreasing. How pitiful is the sight of an economic system in full decay!

There is nothing new in all that. During the last war, a few people grew rich while others suffered untold hardships. A few loathsome profiteers flooded Europe with war equipment. Boundaries did not exist for cannon merchants. The ocean itself was no barrier for those ever greedy madmen, the most active and at the same time the most repulsive of whom was Sir Basil Zaharof. Holder of a baronetcy, commander of the Order of the Bath and grand officer of the Legion of honour, that shady character became the intimate friend of the great political and military men of that period. He gave advice on war operations. He travelled from one sea port to another in perfect safety; he laid down the law, and compelled those in power to obey him. In short, he dominated governments and influenced history.

Mr. Speaker, the horrible war which engulfed the lives of 60,000 of our fellow countrymen on foreign battlefields, and which cost and is still costing us billions, the terrible war which cost 33 countries the staggering sum of 186 billion dollars, this horrible war in which 15 million men were killed, now appears to have been useless and to have settled nothing. Why? Simply because Germany, although she may have lost the war, has won a great peace time victory through failure on the part of the victors to realize the inevitable consequences of their actions. When she was

condemned to pay reparations, a few of the victors proved quite willing to grant her loans much more considerable than the amounts she had to pay. When her commercial fleet was seized, her enemies of yesterday provided her with the funds required to build another more powerful one. Dictatorship of money, what crimes do we not commit in your name! Twenty years ago, the old Germany was crushed and begging for mercy. To-day, the new Germany, in a shaken Europe, openly defies the democracies. Behind the League of Nations' back, she imposes humiliating conditions on Great Britain and France. What happens when the vanquished of yesterday demand the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia? Two great nations give way in the face of the terrible doctrine of, "might is right." These are indeed cruel truths. But no purpose is to be served by concealing them and it is far better to turn the searchlight of truth on the lowest strata of international life.

In the face of events like these, invisible forces such as cooperation and love of peace remain the only safeguards of our civilization.

That is where the petty interests and criminal hypocrisy of certain nations have led all peoples. To ensure the peace and progress of the world should have been the ultimate goal of the statesmen who were called upon to guide the destinies of the most powerful countries on earth. But arbitration and conciliation treaties were wrecked by a formidable instrument, that of financial and military imperialism. As substitutes for disarmament, tranquility and the free development of peoples, heinous psychological trends have given us all the devilish weapons invented by a barbarousness which we still dare to clothe with the noble name of civilization.

In conclusion, may I be permitted to remind the House that, during the last war, it has been said that the gold of certain allied countries was of great service to the enemy. Could it be true that certain hidden powers thus supplied Germany for the entire war's duration? Is it true that the war could and should have been won three years sooner? Is it possible that the Canadian people who are staggering under the burden of war taxes could have been the victims of the blackest treachery that history has ever recorded?

Mr. Speaker, on the strength of the prerogatives granted to us by the Statute of Westminster, let us avoid interference in foreign wars. In the interests of peace, order and progress in Canada, let us bend all our efforts to the reorganization of our economic life which was so deeply affected by our participation in the last war. Let us remain

at home, for I believe that, as far as Canada is concerned, the only danger of attack, provided of course such a danger does exist, would result from the fact that we did not abstain from intervening in the military affairs of Great Britain and other European countries. Our participation in the last war was disastrous and almost a national suicide. Consequently, Canada would have to choose between non-intervention and her own ruin, a total, complete and absolute non-intervention.

I am not of those who believe that once the principle of our participation is established, we can limit our contribution to volunteer services. This is a great mistake! We would be fatally drawn towards conscription. Have we already forgotten the famous national service of 1918? Have we forgotten the cruel treachery of which the religious and civil authorities of our country were made the victims at that time? Once the principle of participation is established, military conscription is bound to result therefrom. This will mean a mass levying of our entire youth, of all male Canadians, of all our living strength and of all our resources. Vanished will be the savings of our people, and ruined, the finances of the nation. Families, homes and even children in their cradles shall not be spared in this orgy of slaughtering and blood. The downfall and complete ruin of my fellow-citizens and my country is something that I will fight against to the bitter end. No Canadian worthy of the name would or could wish such a thing. For him, Canada is the home land. Prompted by this lofty sense of the physical, moral and spiritual personality of my country, I will never cease defending its sacred heritage against whomever might consciously or unconsciously desire its destruction.

Mr. VIEN: Will my hon. friend allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. LACOMBE: Certainly.

Mr. VIEN: How would he ensure the defence of Canada if he does not take the necessary measures to that end?

Mr. LACOMBE: I shall answer my hon. colleague at once—

Mr. VIEN: And how would he go about defending the cradles and homes of which he has just spoken against airplanes and warships coming up the St. Lawrence and bombing our territory?

Mr. LACOMBE: I stated a moment ago that I was against any increase in military appropriations so long as the Militia and Defence Act was not amended. I have already expressed my opinion on the matter. I trust my hon. friend will no longer interrupt me.