

afternoon I not only take no exception but with it am in complete agreement. I was pleased to hear him, at the close of his address, speak as he did about the charter of the world security conference which will later be a matter for consideration by this parliament. I was glad to hear him say, speaking of the importance to the world of the success of that great new instrument for the maintenance of peace, that, if that new venture was to be of service to the world, we all must display the will to peace, and not trust too much in enactments of any kind. Sharing his views in that particular and realizing, as I know he does, how serious the situation is in the world to-day and will be for a long time to come, I do not think we can begin to exercise that will to peace too often, or too much among ourselves. It depends, in the last analysis, upon the attitude of individuals whether peace is to be maintained in this world. We have had six years of bitter strife which has left legacies of hatred and suspicion. Unless the world can be freed from this hatred and suspicion, all that legislators may attempt will be in vain. We shall have to make a beginning in this House of Commons in our controversies in relation to the problems that come before us. I confess that there is nothing that gives me more concern than to see, on the very morrow of the conclusion of this great war, the beginning of much that looks to me like an effort to intensify controversy in some of our domestic fields. The spirit of the approach to any question is going to be the test as to whether or not a solution of the problem can be found. I do appeal to hon. members on all sides of this house to realize that a war, such as this country and the world has gone through in the last six years, has left problems which will require, on the part of everyone having to do with public affairs, all of patience, of conciliation, of genuine friendship and of cooperation that it is possible for us to display.

My hon. friend in speaking of the speech from the throne mentioned its references to the war. He took exception to the length of the speech, and to its substance. He spoke of the first part of it, as I recollect his words, as being largely literature and philosophy. If my hon. friend will read again what appears in the first two pages of the speech, he will realize, I believe, that, far from its being mere literature or philosophy, it is the one tribute which above all is owing by parliament to the people of this country, a tribute which in words cannot be made too comprehensive or emphatic, having regard to what they signify. We have had six years of

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

war. In all its history the world has known nothing like it. Future generations and parliaments are going to turn back to the pages of the speech from the throne to see what in 1945 the Canadian people through the lips of the representative of the crown had to say of Canada's services and sacrifices, her contribution to freedom—in those momentous times. I venture to say that, in years to come, no words in any speech from the throne in Canada will attract more attention and more approval than the words my hon. friend has passed over as being merely literature and philosophy, but which, in reality, are an expression of this nation's obligation to those who offered their lives in this war, to those whose lives were sacrificed, to the bereaved, to those who were crippled and maimed and wounded, to those who to-day are looking so eagerly to their return to their home country after years of imprisonment in Japanese concentration camps and prisons. That is something of what is expressed in the early part of the speech from the throne, what we feel we owe especially to those who have given their all or were prepared to give their all, that we might enjoy the freedom we have to-day.

But the speech in the introductory portion goes further than that. It seeks also to recognize the services of those who have worked in less conspicuous, more humble, but nevertheless very necessary ways to help win the war. I refer to the hundreds of thousands of workers on the farms, in our primary industries, in the shops, and factories and offices, to those who have served in the homes and in hospitals, to those who have made their general contributions in order that the men at the front might not lack support, to all in fact who saw that such contributions as it was possible for those in civil life to make to the winning of the war, were made in as full measure as possible.

I had the responsibility, Mr. Speaker, for the speech from the throne and for advising His Excellency to pay a special tribute to our warriors and our workers; I am sure hon. members of both houses of this parliament will wish above everything else to have it noted that among the first words uttered by His Excellency were those which gave expression on behalf of parliament to the country's gratitude.

To all who have contributed by service and sacrifice to victory, I would, in the name of parliament, express our country's gratitude.

I know the speech is lengthy. There is more than one reason for that. I have given one reason already, but let me enlarge upon it. At Westminster, Britain took the earliest

opportunity to express its appreciation of the services rendered by the armed forces and those who had performed other essential tasks, by presenting a special, formal address to the King in language not very much different from what appears in our speech from the throne. More than that, the House of Commons and House of Lords, as a first act, once victory had been won, attended a service in Westminster in which they gave, as my hon. friend this afternoon has recognized is also given in our speech from the throne, an expression of thanks to Almighty God for His mercy in having saved the world from the appalling menace with which it was faced.

In view of the differences between our practices and those at Westminster the government did not consider it necessary to duplicate that procedure, but we have felt it desirable, and I am sure the nation will be pleased that it is so, to place formally on record in the speech from the throne the thanksgiving of the people of Canada to Almighty God for the great deliverance vouchsafed our country, along with other lands, and our profound appreciation of the service rendered by the armed forces of our country, together with our tribute to the men and women of Canada who, in other ways, have done what they could toward the winning of the war.

Let me pass now to the next part of my hon. friend's remarks. I think I can answer him very briefly and very effectively. Most of his time was spent in criticism of the government's policies with respect first to one subject and then to another. I have a list of them before me, but they will be remembered by all who heard him. As my hon. friend spoke it seemed to me I heard very distinct echoes of what he and members of his party had been saying, *ad nauseam*, months before the general election; and before, the people, who after all are the masters of parliament, had an opportunity to express their views. The people have pronounced on these matters and I am prepared to accept their verdict. My hon. friend went on to speak about controls. He said the people had made it perfectly clear that they did not want, I think he said, anything in the way of, first, national socialism. That was directed, I think, toward my hon. friends of the C.C.F. party.

Mr. COLDWELL: I don't know why.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The next shot evidently was intended for the government. He spoke of bureaucratic control and of other things which he thought were not wanted by the people. May I say to my hon. friend that there is one thing that I think the Canadian

people made very clear. It is, that they do not want the Tory party—and that, by whatever name it may wish to call itself.

My hon. friend also waxed eloquent upon what members of the armed forces feel about the administration. Before the general elections, we heard him and members of his party say a great deal about what the armed forces thought of the government, and on the other hand what they believe the armed forces thought of the party of which he is the head. Well, I suggest that the figures in the returns which came in after the election must have occasioned a good deal of a surprise to my hon. friend. When my hon. friend criticizes the government's actions in respect of what it has sought to do to safeguard and further the interests of members of the armed forces, may I remind him of something which is a source of profound pride to me, namely, that in the general election the vote of the armed forces of Canada was, in largest numbers, in support of the present administration. Moreover, before he repeats what he said this afternoon, I suggest he ought not to forget that his own party received the smallest proportion of that vote.

My hon. friend next spoke about the government's housing policy. He called it "a flop"—"too little and too late". I wonder if he realized that it is less than three months since the people pronounced on the government's policies. During the time of the election much was said about the government's housing policy, about the inadequacy of demobilization, and many other matters. But the people of Canada did not take the narrow partisan view my hon. friend has been expressing to-day. They took the intelligent, wise and, may I say, liberal view as to how situations of the kind should be viewed, namely in the light of all with which the government has had to contend.

I wonder if the new leader of the opposition realizes what these years of war—six years—have placed by way of burden and obligation upon the government. Yes, six years of war; and I am wondering if his criticism has been fair in the light of that fact and all that it signifies. I am not asking to be free of criticism, or to have this party free of it, but I do say that it is due, perhaps not to me or to the government, but due to the country that those who criticize the administration should, at all times, remember the nature of the government's obligations over those six years.

Let me go a step further. Does my hon. friend realize that it is not yet a fortnight since the end of the war? Even yet surrenders