

Some voices say: Well, Canada's place is in union with the United States; let us leave our defence to the United States, and let what will be, be. These people I beg to remind that even if they become a part of the United States they could not possibly escape the responsibilities of war. Witness what is going on in the United States at the present time!

Still other voices argue: Let us keep ourselves helpless so that we cannot fight, and then we will be sure not to fight. My knowledge of history does not permit me to agree with them. It has generally been found that when men want to fight, they fight, regardless of preparation. Look at ourselves in the last war. Britain, they tell me, was not fully prepared until 1918; yet she fought, and for having been unprepared, terrible was the price she paid. Let hon. members in this connection recall what they heard men in this country saying one year ago while Ethiopia was being lacerated. Did they not hear many regretting Canada's inaction as a member of the league? How would Canadians have felt if it had been Australia instead of Ethiopia? How would they feel should New Zealand now be attacked? Would they say: Leave her to it? I have not yet found a single Canadian who would state that he would consent to such a thing. Suppose that Newfoundland were attacked: then what?

Let us come right down to the present moment: How do our people feel about Spain now? Let me read to the members of this house a resolution which I received from a Canadian city only this morning, and that from the very kind of men who are most bitterly opposing Canadian preparedness:

Whereas it has been learned that the great fighter for Spanish and world democracy, General Emil Kleber, has been captured by the insurgent armies in the storming of Malaga and,

Whereas we believe that the efforts of General Kleber, a Canadian citizen, in the leading of the international brigade, is a heroic work in support of Spanish and world democracy, and that his great work is in line with the mission that our own Doctor Bethune is carrying on in Madrid,

Therefore be it resolved that we do urgently petition the federal M.P.'s at Ottawa to take this matter up at once with the federal government to demand the immediate release of General Kleber out of the hands of the fascist executioners at Malaga, who are being openly aided by the fascist countries of Germany and Italy, in violation of the non-intervention agreement that they have themselves signed,

And be it further resolved that we do urge upon the federal government that they do

everything in their power to call upon the non-intervention committee in London that they demand of the fascist junta in Burgos, Spain, that General Kleber be granted freedom at once.

What would happen to the world if members did what these men urge? What would occur if we could get done what they want us to do? The world would likely be plunged into war, and we along with the rest. How many people have you talked with in Canada who wished to volunteer to go and help the Spanish loyalists? In her present state of unpreparedness Canada could do little or nothing on either side, no matter what she might want to do. Even if bombs were dropped by raiders on this parliament building, on our food factories, on our other industrial centres or on our railway stations, what could we do right now? We are living in a world in which wolves abound. Shall we, to make sure that we will not shoot any of these wolves in case they attack us, leave ourselves without a gun? It would surely seem to be the part of wisdom in us to buy ourselves a good gun and a supply of cartridges, and to learn how to shoot. What we will shoot, or whether we will shoot, we can leave ourselves free to decide, if and when the emergency arises.

I long found myself persistently mystified whenever I tried to make clear to myself why it was that Canada which, from shore to shore, twenty years ago was throbbing with patriotic fervour was becoming not only largely apathetic to considerations of unity, but actually hostile. A British commonwealth which paid so great a price for racial safety now gives palpable evidence of approaching disintegration. The people are the same; their ideals are the same; their danger is as great as ever; but something appears to be progressively embittering them. The blame for this whole development I am going to lay relentlessly upon the financial system under which we live. Our present system, outgrown, obsolete, utterly inadequate, is deteriorating to the point of irreparable ruin—not only the whole British Empire but the whole British people. It might with much reason be argued that every government which is stubbornly clinging to the present system is doing more to compass the destruction of the British race than is any man or movement in the outside world to-day.

Major Douglas as far back as 1923 warned democracy over and over again of the coming of this depression and of the coming of this awful danger of war. Even earlier than that he gave all British people instructions how