

been put into operation. A chain of well-equipped air bases has been established where none existed two years ago. On both coasts Canada is basing her defence on the three arms of the service, with the naval and air forces predominating.

Closely tied up with the central defence under the Ogdensburg plan is the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes seaway project, of which we have not yet heard the last word. With Japan in the war and the west coast subject to attack, and with enemy activity on the east coast, this giant undertaking is still regarded as a defence job. The proposed 27-foot deep waterway would open the great lakes to all but the heaviest warships. It would provide bomb-free anchorage many thousands of miles from the sea for unlimited concentrations of naval craft. It would make available for shipbuilding, factories in the Hamilton, Windsor and Detroit areas, where there is concentrated the largest amount of power, steel, coal, labour and machinery which can be found anywhere in the world.

The Ogdensburg agreement marks the full blossoming of a long association of harmony and friendship between Canada and the United States. It was the forerunner of that historic meeting at sea between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt which resulted in the Atlantic charter, while the Hyde Park agreement brought about the declaration respecting the joint war production committee of the two countries. Both Hyde Park and Ogdensburg, so far as this country is concerned, have paved the way for the allied declaration which was made early in January, and which has now been implemented in the speech from the throne.

On September 10, 1939, Canada declared a state of war against Germany, and at the same time declared that she would stand at the side of Great Britain. Since that day Canada has never faltered. That is why Great Britain's Prime Minister was able to pay such a tribute to Canada in this chamber. He called our war effort "magnificent"; and I believe that in a press conference he gave afterward he went so far as to say that, tremendous as was the contribution in the last war, the contribution in this war was even greater. That effort, Mr. Speaker, is due to careful planning on the part of the government. It is due to the fact that men have been placed in the right places.

There have been mistakes. Unquestionably there have been delays; but of irretrievable blunders there have been none. There is one thing that has been manifest thus far, and it is the unity of mind and of purpose of the Canadian people. But we have now, sir, reached a very critical stage in our war effort, a stage which I think in some respects greatly

parallels that of the last war. We are now in the third year of the war. It was in the third year of the last war that the crisis came which split this country against itself. I am sure no hon. member in the house would want to see a recurrence of those events. The plebiscite, in my humble view, is another means of preserving intact the unity of our people. Without that unity the war effort could not be national, it could not be total. I do not believe there is any section of this country, in the face of the peril which surrounds us, that would not want us to prosecute this war to the utmost of our strength. If it is to be prosecuted in that manner, the unity of mind and the unity of purpose of our people must be kept intact. I am sure the house will listen to the words of the former Minister of Justice on this subject, uttered not long before his death. He said:

Sons of our country, brothers in one family, for the future of Canada as for the successful prosecution of the war, is it not imperative that no section of Canada, no race, no creed, should impose upon the other sections, the other races or the other creeds incurable wounds which might destroy our country forever.

In order to have total war there must be total unity, so that in the days to come the Canadian people, side by side with the British and American peoples, will, to use the words of Britain's Prime Minister in his Washington speech, for their own safety and the good of all, walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace.

Hon. GROTE STIRLING (Yale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to conform to that pleasant practice which is followed in this house and express my words of commendation to the mover (Mr. Fournier, Hull) and the seconder (Mr. Macdonald, Brantford City) of the address, and I do this not in any perfunctory way because I appreciated listening to these hon. members. Both of them are members of standing in this house who have made for themselves niches; both of them recently had the opportunity, as did I, of crossing to Great Britain by a most novel method. We saw for ourselves the valour of that people and the recovery they are carrying out; we saw the extraordinary way in which their nerve is being upheld. I was particularly delighted with the phrases used by the mover when he described, in rather touching words, the grace of their majesties.

The speech from the throne is intended to reveal to the people of Canada the intentions of the government in the prosecution of the war, recognizing as it does that the situation is critical and the danger great, and consequently that unless that danger to our existence is overcome by early victory, other