

one hand, and with our dependence on Downing Street and the British Navy, on the other hand.

The point I wish to make is that we should cease vain talk about the status of nationhood, and admit that we do not possess the full measure of responsible government befitting a nation; or do something actually to establish our pretensions on a basis of reasonable representation in an international sphere, the direction of which we have chosen in the past to leave largely to others.

I know that the signing of the Peace Treaty at the end of the last war and the subsequent provisions of the Statute of Westminster theoretically placed Canada on an equal footing with any other part of the Empire, which because of that fact became a "Commonwealth of Nations." But in so far as the outlook of the electors in the different provinces and constituencies of Canada has been concerned, in relation to decisions on matters of peace and war, the responsibilities consistent with national status have not been brought home to them at any time.

We are in the war now, however. No doubt exists about that fact. Its all-enveloping character has begun to crystallize something more real in the way of a Canadian position in the world than was possible even in 1939. Present indications suggest that before the end of this war is in sight Canada's position as a national entity will be still more clearly outlined in the minds of her people. To bring this thought home, consider the possibility of the ending of this war. We were in it at the start, professedly at the side of Britain. Some people say now that we are engaged in the defence of Canada anywhere in the world. However, since the beginning of the war another partner has taken up arms at our side, namely, the United States of America. We may well be thankful for that partnership.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: One notices many evidences, however, of the increasing weight and influence of our powerful American ally in the present world picture. There is no need to enumerate them. London goes to Washington; Mr. Churchill says that is where things are being done. Canada also goes to Washington, if she is invited by the President of the United States. Will the fact that Canada entered this war—as a free people making their decision through a representative and free Parliament—two years before the United States entered it, ensure us a part and a voice commensurate with that position, when the time comes for reconstructing a new world?

That fact will not stand for much to others if it does not stand for much to us. Over against the background of a history which has been largely a record of great aspirations on the part of a gradually increasing population, scattered over a wide domain in isolated pockets, we are now confronted with a test of strength and capacity which in the end will qualify or disqualify us for real claims of national citizenship.

The recent plebiscite has been described as an X-ray plate setting up a picture of Canada before our eyes in a way that could not have been done in any other manner. If that be so and the picture is a real one, I am afraid it reveals some fractures in the body politic at this time. Possibly it is just as well to have them revealed; because if they are not set and healed properly at this late date, the danger of permanent crippling and dismemberment is surely very real indeed. To exert the fullest possible measure of united strength now in resisting and overcoming the overshadowing menace to Canada and her Allies, is an immediate and vital need in so far as the outcome of the present world conflict is concerned. It becomes an even greater need in the light of hopes and claims for a full national existence in the future.

It is because of these uncertainties, because clearer answers are required from our governments in these matters, and because I, for one, want to look forward to something clean-cut and definite in the way of a national existence for the people who inhabit the northern half of this continent, that I am in favour of clause 3 being withdrawn from the Mobilization Act as quickly as possible.

Hon. F. B. BLACK: Honourable senators, I was ready to make some remarks on Bill 80, but I told my honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) that I would not speak unless I felt there was a real reason for doing so. After having heard the debate thus far, which has been a most enlightening and pleasant experience for me, as I feel sure it has been for all honourable members, I do not intend to make the remarks I was prepared to make if occasion arose. I am very much pleased that in this debate nothing, or almost nothing, has been said to which any of us could take reasonable objection, and I do not wish to introduce any discordant note. My chief desire, which I am sure is the chief desire of every honourable member of either House and, I hope, of everyone in Canada, is that Canada shall do its utmost to win the war. That is our first duty, and, as I conceive it, our only duty, at this time.

I think I should not have risen at all in this debate but for the fact that I did not