PRELUDE TO WAR 1293

of the Allied and Associated Powers and as such was a means of enforcing a de facto state of affairs, but not of creating a legal situation which Germany would have been legally or morally obliged to observe.

Nothing Germany has done since that so-called "Peace Treaty" can in any way be termed a violation of any treaty obligation. Not a single German measure had any other purpose but that of furthering the exclusively binding law as created by the Lansing Agreement and of removing an illegal state of affairs created in contravention of this Agreement. Germany has done everything in her power to right the wrong by peaceful means. The guilt is Britain's and that of her allies that they, on the contrary, have attempted to hinder the peaceful removal of wrong by every means and have, finally, taken up arms for this purpose.

As for Canada, which, under your leadership, Mr. Prime Minister, appears to be resolved to enter this war against Germany, no dialectics will succeed in abolishing the fact that Canada has never been threatened by Germany, has never been insulted, has never been injured in her interests; that Canada is not being attacked by Germany, that, on the other hand, Germany is to be attacked by Canada.

In my letter to you, Mr. Prime Minister, of December 1st, 1938,¹ I called the attention of the Canadian Government to, and protested energetically against, the fact that a member of the Government, the Minister of Defence, Honourable Mr. Ian Mackenzie, had attempted to mislead the public of Canada and the rest of the world by the statement that Canada was threatened by air attacks from Germany. I protested that this statement, as was evident to everyone including Mr. Mackenzie, was and is entirely untenable. In spite of this he made the statement "resorting to deception", because, as I stated in my letter at the time, he was endeavouring to make the Canadian people armament-minded and, I might have added, in order to cause them to join the English encirclement front against Germany. He himself confessed to this evident "deception" of the Canadian people by stating in an official press statement a few days ago, that there is no danger of any aerial attacks on Canada by Germany.

At the same time this official statement convicts the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Dr. Manion, of "deception" of the Canadian people. Both in Parliament and at other occasions, he has painted in vivid colors the danger of German aerial attacks which are now officially recognized as non-existent. Deception in this, as in innumerable other instances, was not being practiced by Germany, but against her.

This was done to incite a people, the Canadian people, to a war against Germany; the Canadian people, which in no single one of its interests, had been or is now being threatened by Germany; a people with whom Germany has the desire to live in peace. There is no doubt that this people likewise in its great majority has no other wish but to live in peace with Germany. A plebiscite such as was emphatically demanded a few days ago by the

¹ Non reproduite/not printed.