

under the premiership of MacDonald, Baldwin and the rest, led by the pacifists, the army and the navy were largely scrapped, capital ships were reduced from seventy-five to fifty, the definition of a capital ship changed. They would not build destroyers, and the vote for the army, the navy and the air force was reduced in one year by £5,000,000. We shared the responsibility for that. By this famous statute of Westminster, this empire-wrecking statute, Canada is supposed to look after all her coast-line outside the three-mile limit, and these are some of the causes that led to this war. If we extend this separatist embassy principle, it is going to destroy the whole British empire. New Zealand and Australia have exempted themselves from some of the main clauses of the statute of Westminster and are closer to the mother country.

We see what this statute has done in the case of the south of Ireland. We see how Britain gave up her bases there, and what difficulty and destruction it has caused, what loss of British ships and British seamen and Canadian seamen. They abolished the Neutrality Act, abolished the office of lord lieutenant, abolished appeals to the privy council, removed the king's head from the stamps and coins and set themselves up as a republic. That is a sample in one dominion of the results of this policy of separatism and drift from the empire.

I have great respect for the Prime Minister; he is working hard; he has given a great deal of thought to these problems and deserves great credit for the work he has done. But this policy of drift from the empire has been very fateful to the empire because unconsciously it led Hitler to believe that the dominions would not support Britain. The Prime Minister was over to see him one day and had a talk with him, and very kindly gave us a full account of his visit. I was glad to see him go over there, I do not know Hitler myself; I have never had the pleasure of his acquaintance. I did meet Von Ribbentrop when he was a social lion here and appeared at all social and sporting functions in Canada. He took away with him some good tips about this country.

A good many hon. members have been to Geneva; the former representative of Grey-Bruce in this house proposed that I should be sent to the league, but fortunately I was not sent and would not go if I were. The hon. member for Selkirk had a little trip there; I was pleased to see him go. But that cry "The league, the league and nothing but the league", and collective security, are responsible for the present troubles of this world, and

threaten in this war the destruction not only of Britain but of religion and civilization, because Britain is fighting for her very existence. Last year we depended on France; now we depend on the United States; but in fact our fate is dependent on the battle of London, on Britain and on ourselves. If we stand together and depend on ourselves we shall win the war.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I notice the item in connection with the legation in Paris has been reduced from \$75,000 to \$12,000. How many are still attached to the staff of the former legation in Paris?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The minister, Colonel Vanier, is not at the present time serving the legation; he has taken on other duties at the request of the government in respect of the permanent joint defence board. Mr. Dupuy, who was next in rank, is chargé d'affaires of the French legation. His headquarters are in London at the present time, but he is serving also as chargé d'affaires of the legations to Holland and Belgium. He has associated with him a stenographer and a messenger. That is the extent of the legation staff at the present time.

My hon. friend will notice that the government asks for the appropriation in a lump sum. This is to make it possible to transfer members of the diplomatic service from one post to another, as occasion may arise. We are following the practice of the United Kingdom in that regard. I doubt if any year could have illustrated better the desirability of that form of appropriating money for the diplomatic service than the year which has just passed. I say that because we have had to move men rather rapidly from one part of the world to another.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): *Force majeure.*

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Because of circumstances beyond our control. At the present time the other French legation is down to a minimum.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Could the Prime Minister give the committee any information respecting the number of Canadians in France at the time of the occupation? How many Canadians are still in German-occupied France?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That information was given us last night.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If the hon. member will look at my statement in committee last night, he will find all the information I am able to give under that head.