

ever reached here. I am saying this simply for the purpose of illustrating that necessity has driven the British people to that point,—

Hon. Mr. KING: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: —and we here in Canada, in a sense—I do not wish to use a harsh term—quibble over whether or not we have reached the point where we have to decide to send another 16,000 men overseas.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Will the honourable gentleman tell me why conscription was not applied to Northern Ireland?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: For the very simple reason given by Mr. Churchill in the British House of Commons. He was asked, just as my honourable friend has asked me, why conscription was not applied there. He said he would consider the matter and let his questioner have a reply. Later he stated that, having looked into the question, in his judgment the application of conscription to Northern Ireland might do more harm than good.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: That does not mean anything.

Hon. Mr. KING: Just reasoning.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: No, it is common sense.

Hon. Mr. KING: Yes, common sense.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: There is a great difference between war as waged to-day and in the last century. Then troops were few and mostly mercenaries. Under existing conditions, when a nation declares war there are in my judgment only two ways in which that war can be carried on: either sufficient volunteers must be enlisted or conscription must be applied. Northern Ireland must be one of the Commonwealth nations—

Hon. Mr. KING: No.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: It is actually part of Great Britain?

Hon. Mr. KING: Yes.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Then Great Britain had authority to put conscription into force, but evidently there were reasons which made it desirable not to do so. What those reasons were I do not know.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Because opinion is divided in Northern Ireland as it is here.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Consider what the situation might be here. Suppose the people of my province of Saskatchewan were, in effect, to say, "No, we are not going to submit to the conscription law passed by the Parliament of Canada, we don't like conscription, we don't favour it at all," and that opinion

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was made vocal throughout this country, I wonder whether they would have the right, either morally or legally, to resist the enforcement of that law? That may have been exactly the position in Northern Ireland. For particular reasons, not known to me, the Government decided not to apply conscription. That is their business.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: That is the British Government.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: It must have been the British Government.

I am much longer on my feet than I expected to be, and if no one objects, I would move that the debate be adjourned now so that I may continue to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. KING: Agreed.

The motion was agreed to and the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 5, 1944.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

OVERSEAS REINFORCEMENTS

POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the policy of the Government with respect to overseas reinforcements.

Hon. J. A. CALDER: Honourable senators, when I adjourned the debate yesterday afternoon I was, if I remember correctly, having a discussion with an honourable gentleman on the other side—

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: The honourable senator from St. Jean Baptiste (Hon. Mr. Beaubien).

Hon. Mr. CALDER: —with regard to the Irish problem. I was either trying to reply or had completed a reply to a question that he had put to me. There appeared to be, so far as I could hear, some question as to whether my answer was of any value or not. I do not know. I am not familiar with the facts. But last evening I had an opportunity of meeting an Irishman, a real Irishman from the north of Ireland, an elderly gentleman, but still with all his intellect, and I put the ques-