

heed to the admonitions of private members and thereby obviate the necessity for more plain speaking and hurt feelings or worse.

It would be unfair for me, in my desire to help our war effort, to overlook the bright side of the picture. Canada has a record of achievement in many fields of which we all should be and are exceedingly proud. Some critics are ignoring this and doing very great damage. Our Prime Minister and all his cabinet have planned and worked unceasingly during these critical years. It is amazing how well they have stood up under the terrific strain. We are deeply grateful that the Prime Minister appears to be in such good health at present. We realize to-day more than ever before the value of his leadership in pre-war days in knitting together the English-speaking nations for the preservation of civil and religious freedom. History will accord to our present Prime Minister a high place among world statesmen who have striven to promote peace and good-will among nations.

I have already paid tribute to our three ministers of national defence. May I be permitted to single out one or two other ministers for much merited praise. Our Minister of Finance (Mr. Isley) has given a demonstration of accomplishments possible only through a combination of high qualities. His pioneering in controls has become the example for similar action in the United States. Our Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) surely was born and trained for the great undertaking which is his responsibility. Who will say he has any superior anywhere for his great work? I pay tribute to his administrators, his technicians and his great, loyal organization.

I pay tribute also to the men and women of the war industries, whose skill I have seen in many factories. He who would belittle our war effort needs only go through one of our great war industries to be convinced of the amazing contributions Canada is making. The same applies to agriculture, with its phenomenal increases in the production of bacon, cheese and foodstuffs generally.

A few minutes ago I said that internal diplomacy dampens the fighting spirit of our ministers of national defence for army, navy and air. I said that the consideration should not be and must not be, "we will do more when the necessity arises"; it should and must be, "we will do immediately all that can be done."

The question is, what more can we do? Surely it will not be sufficient to amend the National Resources Mobilization Act and then dismiss parliament, possibly until 1943. Something more is needed to uplift the morale

[Mr. Gladstone.]

of the people. If reverses continue, the people's confidence in eighteen ministers who are waiting for the necessity to do more will be shattered. What may have been sufficient in administration before the war cannot be regarded as sufficient for the present herculean ordeal. As a humble member of this parliament I appeal to the Prime Minister to replace his proneness to overcaution by a policy of greater boldness and greater trust in the people whom we represent. Scarcely a week passes without an election being called by Prime Minister Churchill. We would be better with frequent by-elections in Canada. Many elections are needed now in connection with a dozen or more vacancies in the other house, and to bring new and more persons into the administrative circles of government. The country will welcome some assurances in this regard. The other house should be used or disbanded. There are highly qualified and experienced men in that house who should be given an opportunity to render service to Canada. We are paying them and letting them die of dry rot.

This is a programme that I lay on the conscience of every cabinet minister. The only alternative, in my estimation, is that parliament do now prorogue to be called in extra session in September. I beseech the Prime Minister that extraordinary measures be taken for the greater assurance of the men and women of Canada who trust him, who pray for him, and who feel that, with the billions being expended, there should be a broadening and strengthening in administration.

I must now commence to shape my remarks toward a conclusion. I have spoken frankly my views as to the inadequacy of our administration respecting the volume of detailed responsibility during this crisis. I am much concerned about future days and what I have chosen to describe as internal diplomacy. Make no mistake about it; Canada will be saved only by the men behind the guns, shooting outside Canada, on the warships, in the bombers and fighters, and with the shock troops.

Shall we place limits on our gratitude to Greece for her heroic delaying action? Shall we place limits on our efforts to bring relief to Russia before she is crushed? These nations and many others have become martyrs for our freedom. We draft men for service in Canada and territorial waters; shall it be said that we limited our compulsory service to the last area, where we hoped there would never be any fighting? No; that spirit can never win on the fighting fronts, nor can it maintain respect for Canada among free nations if

freedom survives. Moreover, it will be heart-breaking to our brave men on the fighting fronts.

Maximum strength in this war is our imperative duty to ourselves and to our allies. That maximum strength may well be the strength of eight provinces united, rather than of nine provinces with reservations. Is Canada to be in the position of saying to the nations who are defending us all round the world, "We cannot send more men until they volunteer to go, but we will sell you food and guns and bombers and ships." Or shall we, as a soldier said to me in a smoking-car, "use the sneaking way of pressing the lads to go active?"

Russian women are shouldering guns to destroy the enemy, whose plans call for our destruction in order that he may possess our fair land. The Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence and others have emphasized that the matter of compulsory service for overseas has been magnified beyond its real importance. I agree that it represents but a fraction of the great contribution Canada is making in this war; but it has been seized upon by some as a focal point for attack upon the government in a way that reflects upon Canada's whole war effort. The ill effects of this criticism have spread to the United States. Editorials are being published in that country, one of which I have in my hand which appeared in the *Arizona Daily Star* of Tucson, Arizona, and which constitutes an undesirable reflection upon Canada as a whole and upon one of our provinces in particular. This ought not to be. Our airmen, our sailors, our soldiers, and the men and women of all services created a great and glorious record for Canada long before our great neighbour and ally came into the war. But we must guard against any recession from the high place we have earned in the eyes of the world.

My original plan in preparing this speech contemplated concluding at about this point, but happenings of recent days impel me to emphasize a suggestion I have already made. Some days ago a lady wrote me protesting against certain expenditures for advertising. I replied, giving the best explanation I could obtain from the department concerned. The lady wrote me again, and I will quote one paragraph of her letter:

I appreciate your courtesy in replying to my letter, but your explanation left me cold. All the more so after Mr. McLean's exposure of a day or so ago. Is there no way of ending this sort of thing which I feel, during war time, is absolutely criminal.

This brings me again to my suggestion that parliamentary secretaries should be appointed, at least during war time. A similar plea was

made by the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Shaght) in a speech in this house on February 12, 1942, after his visit to the British isles a few months earlier. As reported at page 588 of *Hansard* the hon. gentleman said:

I was in Mr. Herbert Morrison's room, and there was with him a young gentleman, a member of the house, whom he introduced as his private secretary. Mr. Morrison turned to him at times for verification of certain figures, and this young gentleman was very helpful. I said to Mr. Morrison, "I don't suppose you could carry on without your private secretary." He answered, "Carry on? I could not possibly. I have three private secretaries, and with them I find it difficult to do all the work I have to do."

Then let me quote one paragraph from the speech of the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean), in this house on July 2, 1942, as reported at page 4175 of *Hansard*:

I suggest that in this one comparatively small department of which I am speaking, \$150,000 a year would be a very, very conservative estimate of what could be saved if we exercised the same care in the supervision of the work of this branch that any member would exercise in his own private business.

This saving in one department alone would more than pay all added costs in connection with the necessary parliamentary secretaries. But seemingly the protests of hon. members are to be of no avail, nor have they been under previous governments. There is no existing legislation providing for the appointment of parliamentary secretaries, but I suggest that, if the government so desired, the authority could be obtained before this parliament adjourns. Or, I repeat, are we to adjourn in a few days, possibly until 1943, without any strengthening of the administration? The time of some key ministers is so occupied with details, to their distraction from major planning, that they are unable to take long range views and make preparations to keep the enemy from shooting us down on our very doorsteps. Should there not be ministers without portfolio, who would be free to substitute for ministers who might be absent through illness, or on government business, possibly outside Canada? What is the situation to-day in two departments, namely those of transport and public works? We all regret that the hon. member for Richelieu-Verchères (Mr. Cardin), who occupied the two portfolios, was seriously ill for several months. Some months ago the deputy minister of public works died, and as yet no permanent appointment has been made. All this has occurred during a period of much needed, rush construction for war purposes. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud) is the Acting Minister of Public Works. The