

you cannot indict a great nation and a great people such as the German people. The fact is we got rid of the kaiser only to create conditions favourable to the development of a Hitler. Of course Canada had her responsibility. But the great nations did not take the League of Nations very seriously. I sat in as a temporary collaborator during one entire session of the league at Geneva, and I am afraid it was a disillusioning experience, as I found British delegates—and no doubt the same thing took place among the other delegates—acting in the league very much as I have seen members acting in this house. They talked and voted with an eye to British interests and to the elections. Even in Canada we did not take the league very seriously.

Further than that, there was a steady refusal of the nations to go to the help of the countries whose nationality was violated. It is all very well to talk about the sacredness of our treaty obligations. It is all very well to say that Hitler has broken treaties. Well, what about France and Great Britain? It is a sad story. Think of Manchuria and Ethiopia and Spain and Czechoslovakia. And now it is Poland. Modern Poland undoubtedly was one of the nations set up as a result of the treaty. We remember also that Danzig formerly belonged to Germany; its population is something like 90 per cent German. We know that there is a Corridor there which is undoubtedly very valuable to Poland but which is a bar to communications and the unity of Germany. All this is the result of the Versailles treaty. The free city of Danzig was a legal expedient. Lloyd George and others at the time warned the world that if the Polish Corridor were established in this way and the arrangement made as it has been with respect to Danzig, unquestionably the world was in for trouble in the days to come. I am not sure how far the question could have been settled peaceably; certainly it could not have been so settled at the very last. But efforts should have been made at an earlier stage to do justice.

I will not go into the question of colonies. We think that colonies are very essential. The Germans have claimed their place in the sun. We belong to one of the "have" empires. Germany was late in the game; so was Japan, and to-day they are naturally seeking to have some of those things which are necessary if they are to compete successfully with the other great empires of the world. So we have a situation developing, in which you cannot face a concrete problem and say that all the right is on one side and all the wrong on the other. That cannot be done. It seems to me that above all things we in Canada must

avoid hysteria—and we are in a better position to do so than are the people in other places. We must devote our efforts to something constructive. Great Britain undoubtedly has heavy responsibilities at the present time, but I would ask whether we are to risk the lives of our Canadian sons to prevent the action of Hitler in Danzig and in the Corridor. I would ask what it would mean if there were talk about giving up Gibraltar and the Suez and our control of or interest in Palestine or in the African colonies. What is the result? The league has been practically set aside and now we are back to power politics again. Frankly, that is where we stand. We see a most curious exhibition. It is ridiculous, as the Prime Minister pointed out, that Germany should be seeking to tie up with Russia, but I do not know that it is very much more ridiculous than it was for Chamberlain to try to establish community with Russia. The fact is that we are seeking the balance of power and all that sort of thing again.

I would ask, did the last war settle anything? I venture to say that it settled nothing; and the next war into which we are asked to enter, however big and bloody it may be, is not going to settle anything either. That is not the way in which settlements are brought about. While we are urged to fight for freedom and democracy, it should be remembered that war is the very negation of both. The victor may win; but if he does, it is by adopting the self-same tactics which he condemns in his enemy. Canada must accept her share of responsibility for the existing state of affairs. It is true that we belong to the league, but anyone who has sat in this house knows how difficult it has been to secure any interest in the discussion of foreign affairs. More than that, we have been willing to allow Canadians to profit out of the situation. The Prime Minister may talk about preventing profiteering now, but Canada has shipped enormous quantities of nickel and scrap-iron, copper and chromium to both Japan and Germany, who were potential enemies. We have done it right along. It may be possible now to prevent it, but I submit that if any shooting is to be done the first people who should face the firing squad are those who have made money out of a potential enemy.

I am among a considerable number in this country who believe—and we hold it as a mature conviction—that war is the inevitable outcome of the present economic and international system with its injustices, exploitations and class interests. I suggest that the common people of the country gain nothing by slaughtering the common people of any other country. As one who has tried for a good