

I am at a loss, Mr. Speaker, to understand why John Bracken should have been afforded an opportunity to go to San Francisco. What has he been doing for the last two and a half years? He was invited by the government to seek a seat in this House of Commons, where the leader of any party belongs unless he has something tugging at his coat sleeves to make him believe he can serve his nation better, in war time, by going from coast to coast hiring halls and making, purely political speeches. Let me say to my hon. friend that during those two and a half years, and for years before that, the Prime Minister of this country devoted himself every day, and every minute of every day, to the business of the country and the business of winning the war. He has not taken time off to play partisan politics, and my hon. friends know that to be the case. I hear some murmurs, some grumbles, from over here in the sticks, but I did not hear the interruption. I had not intended to mention any political matters, but since these statements have been made by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) I want to leave with hon. members the opinion of the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, the most beloved man in the British empire to-day. This is what he had to say about our leader, our leadership and Canada's part in the war. I quote from a cable addressed to the Prime Minister:

In the darkest days Canada under your leadership remained confident and true. Now the days are brighter, and when victory is won you will be able to look back with just pride upon a record surpassed by none.

I leave to hon. members of this house and the people of Canada the choice between the political viewpoint of the hon. member for Peel and the viewpoint of that great man Winston Churchill, who plays no politics but, like our own leader, gives every minute of every day to the service of the empire.

I think we all know, or believe we know, what the allied nations are fighting for. It can be set forth in one word: freedom. But we must appreciate the need for this international charter, and the consequences of failure to bring it into existence. In this respect I adopt the words of my hon. friend the leader of the C.C.F. party (Mr. Coldwell), who said we should not send the Canadian delegation to San Francisco expecting to get every last item or clause we might hope for. We should go there in a spirit of give and take, prepared if necessary to accept something less than we desire. The great thing is that this meeting of nations should be a success, not a failure,

[Mr. Slaght.]

and that a charter should be evolved for the future peace of the world. Surely all will agree with that.

I believe that to appreciate the need for this charter we should examine the record for a moment as far as our enemies in this war are concerned. I read somewhere, as a criticism of allied conduct after the last war, this statement: "With the lives and happiness of millions of the human race in jeopardy, we cannot be forever blowing bubbles." Let not our conduct be such that this accusation could possibly be levelled at the allied nations after this war. The leaders of the two enemies with whom we are locked in mortal combat, and I believe, in the main, the followers of those leaders, are ruthless, cruel, bloodthirsty gangsters, nothing less. It is significant that both Germany and Japan are sworn enemies of religion, and by religion I mean the various philosophies of life that constitute the religions of the world, not only our Christian religion. That is a significant fact which we should keep to the fore in dealing with people of that type. They set aside religion and those philosophies which make for better living, better neighbours and those virtues that we in Canada have been taught to worship, no matter under what creed. From the German churches, says the Archbishop of Canterbury, has come no protest against such crimes as the attempt to exterminate the Poles, or the horror and misery of the Jews. For five years we have had to put up with announcements over the BBC such as this: "Fifty more Czechs, including old women and children, have just been shot." The nazis have killed, tortured, maimed, starved, plundered and burned altogether too much for any sane man in this world to adjudge them entitled to any kind of decency in our treatment of them.

Mr. JAUQUES: What about Greece?

Mr. SLAGHT: Yes, Greece is another sample of intensive cruelty, beyond all military needs. I could multiply them many times, but I shall pass along in what I have to say. I could speak of the destruction of thirty thousand civilians including old men and women with babies at their breasts, in that old Dutch city of Amsterdam—civilians who were murdered in cold blood by this ruthless gangster in the early stages of the war. And when the civilian population was fleeing from Paris along the roads the nazi aircraft zoomed up and down, spraying machine-gun death upon those helpless hurds of human beings, in order to build stop-logs of their bodies, so as to better the ruthless assault of the German army.