

than he attempted it about one hundred and thirty years ago in the person of Napoleon Bonaparte. After that attempt Napoleon ended his life in early middle age as a prisoner on the island of St. Helena, and I hope, and probably I am expressing the hope of this whole house when I say this, that Hitler will meet some such fate as that.

Sir, we are bound to participate in this war. We are British subjects, we are part of the British empire, and as I have expressed it on other occasions, I do not see how we can possibly be in and out of the British empire at the same time. At the special session of parliament held twenty-five years ago the leader of the opposition of those days—leading the Liberal opposition as I am leading the Conservative opposition to-day—that brilliant French-Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, expressed himself more eloquently than I am capable of doing; therefore I shall quote two or three of his sentences. He said:

We have long said that when Great Britain is at war we are at war; to-day we realize that Great Britain is at war and that Canada is at war also.

A little further on he said:

Upon this occasion I owe it to the house and to myself to speak with absolute frankness and candour. This is a subject which has often been an occasion of debate in this house. I have always said, and I repeat it on this occasion, that there is but one mind and one heart in Canada. At other times we may have had different views as to the methods by which we are to serve our country and our empire. More than once I have declared that if England were ever in danger—nay, not only in danger, but if she were ever engaged in such a contest as would put her strength to the test—then it would be the duty of Canada to assist the motherland to the utmost of Canada's ability.

And still further on he said:

It will be seen by the world that Canada, a daughter of old England, intends to stand by her in this great conflict.

And Sir Robert Borden in the same debate, answering Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as the Prime Minister will speak after myself to-day, said:

As to our duty, all are agreed: we stand shoulder to shoulder with Britain and the other British dominions in this quarrel. And that duty we shall not fail to fulfil as the honour of Canada demands.

With those sentiments I wholly agree. I have said on other occasions, and I repeat to-day, that I do not believe there can be any neutrality for any part of the empire when some other part of the empire is at war. But in addition to that, we are fighting to-day for our conception of civilization. We are fighting for Christianity, in all its branches, because Christianity, Protestant and Catholic alike, has been persecuted in Germany by

[Mr. Manion.]

Hitler. We are fighting for religion, because Judaism and the Jews have been persecuted even more cruelly by Hitler. We are fighting for democracy, for liberty of person, liberty of speech and assembly, liberties which we in Canada enjoy. Hitler's philosophy is a tyrannical autocracy. He places the state above everything and treats the individual as nothing, as a soulless animal to be used and sacrificed. His attitude goes back thousands of years to the law of the jungle, the law of tooth and fang. There are those who say that we owe nothing to Poland and therefore we should take no part in this war. In the same way we might say, if walking down the street we saw a mad dog attacking a child, that we owe nothing to the child. Nevertheless most of us would go to the help of the child.

One point I wish to make very clear is that to my mind we have no quarrel with the German people as a people. For generations they have given generously to the world in science and art and literature. We have well over half a million citizens of German descent in this country, and they are amongst our very best citizens. But, sir, Germany is controlled at the present time by an unscrupulous egoist. It is true he served Germany well, and had he stopped at a certain point he might well have gone down into history as a great German hero. He raised the German people from discouragement, gave them back their pride after a just but humiliating defeat. Had he stopped there he would have been accepted perhaps by all the world as a German hero. But he did not stop there. He realized that the nations which had been fighting Germany from 1914 to 1918 were sick of war and anxious for peace and disarmament, so anxious that they would do almost anything to secure peace. He saw his chance in that desire on the part of the allies and took advantage of it. It is one of his outstanding characteristics that he sees his chance and immediately takes advantage of it. I think we all know to-day that when he re fortified the Rhine he was bluffing the French and the British. He had a very small army which might well have been driven back; but again probably their desire for peace kept them from interfering. Immediately after the re fortification of the Rhine he re armed Germany, and during that process he found it necessary to begin his murders. Many of the military leaders of Germany who differed from him with regard to some of his methods were wiped out of existence in what were called blood purges. Then he conquered Austria, again without a doubt instigating the murder of the little