

this great Commonwealth act in the light of their responsibilities of nationhood, the great Empire to which we are all so proud to belong will be destroyed. Well, my belief is that it has been demonstrated to the whole world that the ties that bind the peoples of the overseas Dominions to the people of Great Britain are not breakable. Whenever the occasion arises the whole Empire will respond as one. Yet Canada is mistress in her own house, in all her own affairs. That is agreed to and conceded, not only by our own statesmen and our people in general, but by the people and the Government of Great Britain.

For the purpose of clarifying my statement a bit I would read into *Hansard*, from the proceedings of the last Imperial Conference which the present Prime Minister had the honour and privilege of attending, a few brief portions of the deliberations as to this very question of the position that the Dominions and Great Britain should properly take in the event of an international assembly such as the one about to be held. On that occasion Mr. King had this to say:

The terrible events of 1940 revealed how great was the menace to freedom and how suddenly freedom might be lost. So long as freedom endures, free men everywhere will owe to the people of Britain a debt they can never repay. So long as Britain continues to maintain the spirit of freedom and to defend the freedom of other nations, she need never doubt her own pre-eminence throughout the world. So long as we all share that spirit, we need never fear for the strength or unity of the Commonwealth. The voluntary decisions by Britain, by Canada, by Australia, by New Zealand, and by South Africa are a supreme evidence of the unifying force of freedom.

He continues:

This common effort springing from a common source has given a new strength and unity, a new meaning and significance to the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Without attempting to distinguish between the terms "British Empire" and "British Commonwealth," but looking rather to the evolution of this association of free nations, may I give to you what I believe to be the secret of its strength and of its unity, and the vision which I cherish of its future.

And he quotes these words:

"We . . . who look forward to larger brotherhoods and more exact standards of social justice, value and cherish the British Empire because it represents, more than any other similar organization has ever represented, the peaceful co-operation of all sorts of men in all sorts of countries, and because we think it is, in that respect at least, a model of what we hope the whole world will some day become."

The words which the Prime Minister quoted at that time were words spoken by Mr. Churchill in 1907, and they became part of his great speech.

Hon. Mr. KING.

We in this country are not doing any great service, but possibly a disservice, to Canada, and to the Commonwealth as it is organized to-day, by raising doubt from time to time as to the loyalty of the Canadian people to their association with Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Such a doubt should not enter the minds of the public of this country. We have demonstrated on many occasions our loyalty and our desire to co-operate with Great Britain in every way, not only in war, but in peace, and I hope that throughout this conference and through the years to come co-operation will continue between all the nations of the Commonwealth. If it does continue, as it has heretofore, we shall be a great power in this world and a great example to the world of what nations can do if they act in the spirit of justice and co-operation.

We have before us a booklet that was distributed not long ago which contains certain proposals that came out of the conference held at the instigation of the four great powers last August and September. From that meeting, as I have already said, emanated an invitation to Canada to be present at the coming conference in San Francisco on April 25 of this year. Those who represented the four governments at Dumbarton Oaks succeeded in agreeing on about ninety per cent of the matters that were discussed, but some matters were referred back to those who originated the conference. At Yalta only a few days ago those matters were again under consideration, and additions, dealing largely with the Security Council, were made to the proposals arising out of the Dumbarton Oaks conference. These have been agreed upon between the four great powers. It has been indicated by the Prime Minister that although we were not a member of the Dumbarton Oaks conference, we were furnished with full reports of its proceedings, and the booklet to which I have already referred sets out proposals for the establishment of a general international organization. Among other things, it states:

There should be established an international organization under the title of The United Nations, the Charter of which should contain provisions necessary to give effect to the proposals which follow.

The first chapter sets out the purposes of the organization, as follows:

1. To maintain international peace and security; and to that end to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means adjustment or settlement of international disputes which may lead to a breach of the peace;

2. To develop friendly relations among nations and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;