

while going on the train to Montreal, I clipped from the *Ottawa Journal* the following short article:

British Believe Canadians Best
Street Fighters

British soldiers rate Canadians the best street fighters in Italy, Lt.-Col. Frederick L. Nicholls of Toronto, former commander in Italy of the Carleton and York regiment, a New Brunswick unit, said in an interview to-night.

He said the morale of the Canadian soldiers is "tops" and expressed belief it is high because of the fact all the Canadians overseas are volunteers.

"Therefore they're over there because they want to fight. They have a job to do and they want to clean it up."

Col. Nicholls was in command of the Carleton and Yorks along the Adriatic coast during the Cassino fighting. He has just returned to Canada to join the military training branch at defence headquarters.

I congratulate the government upon the new legislation and the new departments that are being created which will permit the government to carry out a post-war effort with the same success as they have carried on the all-out war effort since 1939.

It is laughable to listen to statements made that the Liberal government has stolen the programme of the Progressive Conservative or the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) informed this house at the first or second session of this parliament of his intentions with regard to social legislation that would be submitted for approval before this parliament was prorogued and, at the opening of this session, a definite plan of social reform was outlined in the speech from the throne.

I believe this government is working out the very best form of cooperation with the commercial banks and industry. The government's intention, I understand, is to cut out everything in the management of the banks and industry that has been found to have been a hindrance to the full development of Canada and the welfare of our people.

The Minister of Finance has advised us that understandings have been arrived at with the Bank of Canada and the commercial banks which will permit them to finance any development the government will find it necessary to undertake, and also place the banks in a position to finance all legitimate demands made on them by industry and commerce. He has also informed us that the government has complete control of currency and credit, and the system of banking to-day is not the same system that existed from 1929 to 1939. A new system has evolved since 1939.

The government is gradually weeding out what might be termed bad in banking and free enterprise systems without destroying what has been found good, which I would term constructive evolution.

I do not think this government will hesitate for one minute to take over any industry or to organize any industry that they decide should be established in the interests of the public, if they find private capital is not forthcoming or sufficient for the full development of such industry.

I would say to the leader of the C.C.F., in answer to his statement on page 4019 of *Hansard*, that the Canadian soldiers will return to the same beautiful and free Canada that they had left to fight the enemy and offer their blood so that we, who were left at home, would be able to continue to live in this glorious and free land known as Canada, but may I say to him that they will not return to Canada and find the same economic or social system that existed when they left their homes and loved ones.

Before I came into this house in 1940, I had arrived at certain conclusions of what I considered were the financial or economic reforms that should be made, and I am pleased to say that I am satisfied with what has been done up to the present. There are reforms that I believe should still be inaugurated to permit the government to stabilize employment and successfully carry out their social security programme.

However, the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Bank of Canada are confident that the reforms which are being evolved will be sufficient, and I am convinced that if the government find out later on that other changes in our monetary or economic system are necessary, they will not hesitate to make such changes as are necessary to make a success of post-war management and development. I have confidence in the government and very much faith in the future.

In conclusion, I would say that the people of Canada, yes, the people of the British empire, should thank God that we have had in this country such a man as Mackenzie King as Prime Minister with his able government to guide us through those terrible years of the war. Canada has done a great war job and has done it well. It is therefore my belief that Mackenzie King was a good peace-time, a good war-time and will be a good post-war Prime Minister.

Mr. LIONEL BERTRAND (Terrebonne): Canada is one of the most beautiful countries in the world; I would even say the most beautiful. Hurlled as a challenge against the