

found it possible to leave a personal account of some of their life's experiences. That it was equally unfortunate that we did not possess from the pen of each, some account of national developments, and great events, as they, themselves, had known them in the making.

ENQUIRIES FROM PUBLISHERS

From time to time, since I made that observation, I have read in the press that I had already entered upon the task of writing my memoirs. Indeed, I have received from more than one publishing house, enquiries as to whether their representatives might not discuss with me terms upon which the memoirs might be published. I do not deny that there are a few things which I should like to say, or to leave in written form, which I would hope might encourage younger men to take some part in public life, and which I would also hope might be helpful to them in the service of their country. I should like, too, to leave some account, were that possible, of some of the great events of our times, as I have watched them develop, and have glimpsed them from behind the scenes. Such a record might be of interest and value to a succeeding generation if not to our own. I must tell you, however, that this is not a task which can be performed in a day, nor yet in a year, nor is it a task that could be entered upon so long as one's responsibilities continue to be what mine have been in the past, and what they are at present. I regret to have to say that up to this moment, I have not found it possible to write a single line.

There are a few other matters, too long neglected, which perhaps I may be pardoned for also wishing to overtake. I believed, while the war was on, that the chance for all this would come when the war was over. I now see if it is to come at all, it must come very soon. I have never sought either ease or idleness. I have found my greatest happiness in work. That happiness, if spared, I expect to continue to find along this well tried path. I know, however, that, in the even-tide of life, the shadows speedily lengthen, and that "the night cometh wherein no man can work".

Of one thing, you may be sure. If I cease to lead the Party, I shall never cease to have the Party's interests and its future near to my heart. Nor is it likely, be the sacrifice what it may, that I shall knowingly shirk any responsibility which the needs of our time may seem to demand, and which I feel I am able to meet.

At most, we can make but plans. Our futures will be determined by events, and by a Power beyond our own. In asking that a Convention be held this year to review the Party's policies, and to decide upon the Party leadership, I am planning what I believe to be best for the Party's future. What may be best for all, when the Convention meets, we may leave with confidence to the sound judgment of the Convention itself. Our present duty is to see that the calling of a Convention is not longer delayed.

MENACE OF COMMUNISM: Referring to the international situation, the Prime Minister said:

Any true appreciation of Canada's domestic problems must begin with an understanding of the world situation. This has not always been the case. It was not true of Canada before Confederation. It was not true of Canada in Sir John A. Macdonald's day. It was not true in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's day. It began to be true in the years Sir Robert Borden was in office. The first world war made us aware that Canada's freedom was bound up with the freedom of other nations - if not of all, at least with the freedom of those countries which shared a belief in freedom and free institutions similar to that held by ourselves.

In the years following the first Great War, we and many other nations solaced ourselves with the belief that the world had witnessed the last of its great conflicts. We thought that war, on such a scale, could never afflict the nations again. We reposed comfortably under the soothing shades of a League of Nations, which was holding meetings and many conferences in the heart of Europe, at Geneva. To this body, we were prepared to relegate consideration of problems that might give rise to war. We went on our way thinking mainly, and all but exclusively, of our own domestic affairs. It was only in the thirties we began to experience a growing concern and anxiety at what was taking place in Europe. Then, in 1939, came the attempt at European domination by Germany, and in 1941 a similar attempt at domination of the Orient by Japan. For a time the skies of the entire world were overcast by the sinister menace of world domination, by tyrannies which based their power upon material force. At the end of six years of war, that menace was seemingly crushed. It was certainly subdued. But it was not obliterated. The menace of world domination ceased for the time being, at least, to appear in the open. But it began to work its way underground, and from quarters that were at times unexpected.

SIGNS OF NEW TYRANNY

Today the signs of the new tyranny that seeks world domination are unmistakable. Communism is no less a tyranny than Nazi-ism. It aims at world conquest. It hopes to effect its purpose by force. Its patterns of procedure are similar, but they go further. They seek to create unrest in all quarters of the globe, and, by devious underground and underhand methods, to penetrate and undermine the established social systems of many lands. So far as may be possible in freedom-loving nations, Communism seeks to unsettle and undermine, where it does not openly defy, the authority of government itself.

The world is in an appallingly dangerous condition today. After our second experience with war on a world scale, let us beware of again mistaking appearances for realities. Let us not speak of having entered upon an era of peace, where all about us are evidences of strife. Let us not allow another wolf-like

menace to masquerade in sheep's clothing, seeking, all the while, whom it may devour.

The task of Liberalism at all times has been the extension and preservation of freedom. That was its supreme task in the years of the two world wars. For years to come, its supreme task will I believe continue to be the preservation of freedom against this new and terrible menace. This preservation Liberalism must strive to effect by continuing to guard the freedom of the individual, and the freedom of our own and other lands.

MILITARY STRENGTH VITAL

To improve the lot and to help preserve the freedom of men and women of our own and other lands, let men and women of liberal mind and heart seek, by all means, to promote the great principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. But let them not believe that the words of any charter, however strong their appeal, nor how oft repeated, can effect anything of themselves, or that they will effect anything in the end unless, where force threatens, it can be kept at bay by superior force. So long as Communism remains as a menace to the free world, it is vital to the defence of freedom to maintain a preponderance of military strength on the side of freedom, and to secure that degree of unity among the nations which will ensure that they cannot be defeated and destroyed one by one. The United Nations, in my opinion, will be well advised to concentrate upon the organization of the international force by which, in the words of Lord Tennyson, it was to "hold a fretful realm in awe". In some other particulars it would, I believe, be wise to limit, for the time being at least, some of its multifarious activities. Force has not, in itself the power to create better conditions. But a measure of security is a first essential. If properly organized, the force required to provide security would have the power to save from destruction those who have at heart the aim of creating better conditions.

Nor let any of us think that the support of any organization, however high its aims, can relieve any individual, or any party, or any nation, of a responsibility which is its own. We all know, or ought, by now, to know that for centuries in many countries, multitudes of men and women and little children have been deprived of any real opportunity to develop their individual personalities, and to share, through an equitable distribution of the world's wealth, in the bounty which Providence has bestowed on mankind. Communism deliberately exploits this situation to which it professes to have found the remedy. That constitutes the attraction of Communism for the under-privileged, and for many of those who sympathize with and wish to improve the lot of their fellow-men. Let us not underestimate that fact.

But Communism, as its present day promoters practise its precepts, is based on force on the class war. It fosters ill-will; it foments strife. No enduring order can be based on Force. Consent, not force, is the only sure

basis of an enduring social order. Ill-will has never effected anything enduring, neither has strife. It is to the opposite of these, we must look for an increase in human happiness.

It is equally essential to Victory in the struggle with Communism that the cause of Freedom should not become merely a negative cause; that the defence of Freedom should not be left to reactionaries, but that the free nations should find not only a better, but a more attractive social gospel than Communism provides. If we are to win against Communism in its struggle for the minds and souls of men, if we are to help save the world from a tyranny as ghastly as any which has hitherto menaced mankind, it will only be by recognizing, wherever we may go, wherever we may be, that we remain our brother's keepers, and that, at home and abroad, we have an obligation to lend our individual and national efforts to furthering to the extent of our abilities, more in the way of equality of opportunity and of social justice. As opportunities of self development are enlarged, as inequalities and obvious injustices are removed, as good-will supplants ill-will in human attitudes and relationships, as fear gives place to faith, an all-consuming Communism will cease to be able either to attract or to deceive. If we are to be true to our Liberal faith, we must put forth every effort to further equality of opportunity, and to effect, in all possible ways, a larger measure of social justice.

However short Liberalism may have fallen in achieving these high purposes, Liberalism may at least claim that such has been its purpose in the past, that its supporters have accomplished more in these directions than have those of any other political persuasion, and that such is its foremost aim today. If Liberalism is true to itself, such, throughout the future, as never before, will be its supreme endeavour.

OPPOSITION LEADERS' COMMENTS

MR. BRACKEN: In an Ottawa statement commenting on the Prime Minister's announcement of a parliamentary committee to investigate rise in the cost of living, John Bracken, Progressive-Conservative leader, said:

There can be no objection to a parliamentary inquiry provided it is not used as a means of avoiding parliamentary discussion. But let there be no mistake--there is no substitute for immediate action.

By blundering in its decontrol policy, by blundering in its fiscal policy, the present administration is directly responsible for the chaotic upsurge in the cost of living. The Prime Minister now seeks to evade his responsibility by hiding behind the skirts of a committee which he obviously intends shall be impotent and ineffective.

The people of Canada are sick and tired of talk about high prices. They do not need a committee to tell them that the prices of things they have to buy in order to live have