

The resolution before the house endorses the acceptance of the invitation to go to San Francisco. It recognizes the vital importance of an effective organization for peace, and it declares that Canada should become a member of that organization. It declares that the proposals constitute a satisfactory basis for discussion but it recommends, and I think that this is important, that Canada's delegation should try to improve it; and it safeguards the right of parliament to final decision on any agreement or agreements that may be reached. Therefore the resolution should receive the unanimous support of both houses of parliament.

The world should have profited from the experiences gained between the two wars. At the conclusion of the first great war many people believed that a system for the maintenance of peace was in the making. I know that I welcomed the establishment of the league of nations, and for a good many years I pinned my faith to it. In my support of league principles I have never wavered because I believe that they are principles that are eternally sound. But as the years rolled by I realized that it was not the league that failed or the principles that underlay it; it was the leaders of the nations who had promoted its foundation who failed the principles upon which the league had been founded.

We watched with ever-growing alarm the building up of Mussolini and Hitler as barriers against peoples' movements not only in their own countries but throughout the world. The dictators destroyed their countries' effective labour organizations; they destroyed the great cooperative movements which had been so laboriously established, and gave their people work by preparing for war—a war which at almost any time and at any stage between 1931 and 1938 could have been prevented by united action on the part of all the peace-loving nations.

But of course all this is historic; all this is in the past; and the usefulness to-day in recalling it is merely in the lesson it has for us toward the close of a still more devastating war, and of course the opportunity again presented to the world to do what we failed to do in the period of what we might call a prolonged armistice between 1918 and 1939.

I believe there is an almost unanimous desire on the part of the Canadian people that parliament should give the strictest attention this session to this business and the other business before the house, the business for which the session is called. We must be positive that our efforts, for example, to bring the war to a successful conclusion do not lag in any particular. We must provide the funds

to carry on our civil government, to improve our social services, to provide for the rehabilitation of the men and women who are returning now and to make sure that those who are coming back will be replaced and that our fighting men will be adequately reinforced by trained and efficient personnel. I do not believe that the country expects us to indulge at this time in recrimination or petty bickering, but rather to act in a manner that will show our allies that this is indeed a united nation to the extent of our determination to win the war and to lay the foundations for the prevention of another great conflict in the future. If we fail as a parliament to act in the manner in which we are expected to act, parliament will lose to a greater degree than ever before the confidence of the masses of the Canadian people.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) this afternoon announced that parliament will be represented on a non-partisan basis. The choice of the delegation is, in the view of the government, a responsibility of the government in power. I therefore do not intend to discuss that part of the proposal made by the Prime Minister this afternoon, but I wish to state my opinion that in the circumstances in which this parliament finds itself, no representation of Canada on a purely partisan basis could be adequate or satisfactory. The British people will be represented by members of all parties who, owing to the threat of invasion and defeat in 1940, joined together in a coalition. The threat of both invasion and disaster which they faced was one which this country, very fortunately, was spared. The United States and Australia, having party governments, will none the less be represented by non-partisan delegations appointed on the responsibility of their respective governments. In following a similar course Canada is doing something, which, I think, will be approved by the Canadian people generally.

The task which lies before this conference will be both great and historic. It will be meeting, at a time when the victorious allies from the east and from the west will be about to meet somewhere on the plains of Germany—at least that is what we hope. But victory alone will not bring the kind of world in which peace and security may reign supreme. Even the basis of collective action to assure the peaceful settlements of disputes or resistance to a threat of aggression will not be sufficient. As long as racial hatreds fomented in many countries for political advantage, are permitted to divide mankind, so long will the threat of death and destruction be ever present in our midst. We must not forget that at San Francisco the nations will be