

and where the shore-line is indented with innumerable bays and inlets, these new-comers are moving down over 2,000 miles of boundary line." Yet in those circumstances my honourable friend wishes us to be concerned lest we could not remain neutral!

Picture conditions to-day, with the United States as our neighbours in the north. We have a common language; our political institutions and our common law spring from the same sources; and we understand each other, because we are similar in all those fundamentals that go to make up our common civilization. Most certainly neither my honourable friend nor I would wish to see any change in Alaska such as might occur in the eventuality referred to. If that time ever does come, I shall have no quarrel whatever with my honourable friend's emphasis on the fact that it might be necessary for the integrity of Canada itself that our boys should again be on the battlefields of Europe. If, as my honourable friend has suggested, we are likely to be menaced by reason of having a new neighbour in the north, I would say that is no reason for trying to block the building of this road. It is one of the strongest reasons why we should have it.

I shall close by recalling to honourable members a statement made by President Roosevelt at Queen's University in August last. He said:

The Dominion of Canada is part of the sisterhood of the British Empire. I give to you assurance that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if the domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other empire. It has been said that that statement was made in the interest of the United States. Let us grant that to be so. If the United States say they want no other neighbour than Canada, we can say with equal force and conviction, and, if you will, with the same interest, that we want no other neighbour than the United States.

At about the same time as President Roosevelt made this statement, the Prime Minister of Canada spoke as follows:

The people of Canada deeply appreciate all that is implied by the President's visit. At the same time, they know they have their own responsibilities for maintaining Canadian soil as a homeland for free men in the Western hemisphere.

They will be quick to see that the assurance given by the President has, if anything, increased, rather than lessened our responsibilities. We too have our obligations as a good and friendly neighbour, and one of them is to see that at our own instance our country is made as immune from attack or possible invasion as we can reasonably be expected to make it, and that should the occasion ever arise, enemy forces should not be able to pursue their way, either by land, sea, or air, to the United States across Canadian territory.

I think, honourable senators, if this new aspect of which we have heard had been presented to the Prime Minister, he would have added, as I think we all would add, that if the time should ever come when a foreign nation threatens to supplant the United States on this continent we should be as ready to resist it as President Roosevelt said the United States would be to resist the domination of Canadian soil by any other empire. Therefore, as far as this Alaska highway is concerned, I think some of the fears conjured up by the honourable gentleman from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach) have little or no foundation. Let us consider this proposition from a business point of view, always remembering that if there is such a menace as the honourable gentleman has suggested, that is not a reason for holding back, but is an additional reason why we should face what is ahead of us, take our share of responsibility, and act as a sensible and practical people.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. W. A. GRIESBACH: If nobody else wishes to speak on this subject, I would exercise my privilege of closing the debate.

It might be well at this time, honourable senators, again to draw your attention to the subject-matter of this discussion. The notice which I gave was that I would—

—draw the attention of the Senate to a proposal for the construction of a military motor road from the United States boundary through Canadian territory to the United States territory of Alaska.

Turning to my closing remarks, I find this:

This is a matter of outstanding importance, fraught with serious consequences to this country, and I hope that no very definite or positive action will be taken by the Government without Parliament first having an opportunity to examine into the matter from the point of view not only of the best interests of Canada itself, but of the Commonwealth and the Empire as a whole.

What I sought to bring to the attention of the people of this part of Canada was the fact that there had been a proposal to construct a motor road from the United States through Canada to Alaska, and I venture to say that many people living in eastern Canada had never even heard of it. I then undertook the task of describing how it was proposed to build this road.

I know that a commission has been appointed in the United States, and another in Canada, and that they are discussing the whole subject; but we are bound to take cognizance of what is said in American newspapers and by American public men, just as we are bound to take cognizance of what is being said by our own people. The informa-