

Ouimet Speaker of the House of Commons. He said, "Why should I, a fellow-rebel and fellow-traitor of years gone by, oppose the elevation of the honourable gentleman to the speakership?" Just twenty years ago the honourable member from Lunenburg (Hon. Mr. Duff) and many others, including myself, were classed as rebels and traitors. Speaking to you as a rebel of 1917, I want to say that no member sits in this House, or ever will sit in it, who is prepared to do more for the defence of Canada than the gentleman who is addressing the House at this moment. The honourable senator from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach) quoted the Prime Minister of this country and the Minister of Justice, and referred to the use of the word "alone." A few years ago a bootlegging ship called the "I'm Alone" got into a lot of trouble, and I am prepared to get into all the trouble that is coming to me, for, as far as anything I say in regard to this matter is concerned, I am speaking for myself, and myself alone.

As I said a moment ago, there is no limit to what I will do, provided circumstances warrant it and the finances of this country will permit. There is no quarrel for the moment between the honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) and myself. We are in perfect agreement. But I cannot follow the honourable senator from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach). What does he want? He wants a terror fleet on the Atlantic and the Pacific, and a challenge fleet in mid-ocean, to convoy our products to the warring nations, whoever they may be. Where is he going to get the money for them? I know it is not to be found at the moment in the Dominion treasury. My honourable friend is a native of the province of Alberta, and should be proud that he is, for I imagine that his only hope would be that he could get the money in that great province. He cannot get it from the taxpayers of Canada, because they already are paying all they can pay.

As I have said, there is no limit, as far as I am concerned, to how far we shall go in the defence of Canada. I believe the governments of the day—to me it does not make any difference what governments they have been—have done all they could do for the defence of Canada under the conditions that have existed. We are told we must declare ourselves; that shortly there is to be an Imperial Conference and the Government of Canada must take a stand. I wish to assure honourable members that I believe our affairs are safe in the hands of the Prime Minister of this country and his colleagues. I believe that what they do will be worthy of the positions which they occupy, and worthy of the

citizens of Canada. I believe as firmly as a man can—I may be mistaken; I hope not—that the Government of the day will say to the War Lords, the strategists and perhaps the Jingoos of Great Britain, supported by the Jingoos of this country, "We are willing to do as much as we can, and that much we will do."

This country, you must remember, is a very wide one and very sparsely populated. Not more than fifty per cent of the people of this country can claim British birth. We have brought here many people from many lands. We have one people here above all others, a people who are the descendants of those who came here more than four hundred years ago. What do they say? They say, "Go so far and no further, unless our interests are vitally affected." I am prepared to support any policy, whether it comes from the other side of the House or from this, that will be in the interest of this country, and—to use the word my honourable friend from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach) emphasized so strongly the other night—this country alone.

Before I forget, I wish to compliment the honourable member from Edmonton on his speech. It was clear and it was calm; it was collected and connected. He spoke from his point of view. With that I have no fault whatever to find. Again I congratulate him. But because he thinks along a certain line is no reason why I should necessarily follow him. Surely we all have some opinions of our own. Surely we have some knowledge of what the public of this country thinks, and of what it wants us to do. I should like to tell my honourable friend—and I do so with all humility—that I believe I am well within the mark when I say that ninety per cent of the people of this country are opposed to Canada taking any further part in European wars. I will go further and say that 99.9 per cent of those in attendance at the schools of learning and the universities of this country are opposed to the thing he mentioned and which caused me to rise to my feet, namely, conscription. I shall deal with that a little later.

There has been quite a little furore, a semi-frenzy, of late, in regard to the naval protection of the Dominion of Canada. I was a member of the House of Commons years ago when the Laurier naval plan was under discussion. I was then, as I am now, just a buck private. I remember distinctly what was said at that time by the Hon. Mr. Foster, later Sir George Foster. I remember distinctly the amendment that was moved by the uncrowned king of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which enlarged upon Mr. Foster's