

*Address of Right Hon. Peter Fraser*

struggle. Early in the war, naval forces of New Zealand had taken a brilliant part in the battle of the River Plate, in which an end was put to the *Graf Spee*. Soldiers from New Zealand had already covered themselves with honour in the western desert, in Greece, and in Crete. The young airmen of New Zealand, many of whom had been trained in our midst, had already distinguished themselves in the unending battles in the skies. I cannot tell you, Mr. Fraser, how favourable is the impression which the young airmen from New Zealand have made upon us all in the course of their sojourn in Canada.

It will ever be remembered that New Zealand did not wait for the forces of tyranny to approach her shores; that she recognized that freedom threatened anywhere meant freedom threatened everywhere. From the outset, the young men of New Zealand went forth to uphold freedom wherever it was assailed.

When a year later Mr. Fraser visited us a second time, the war in terms of geography was for New Zealand no longer distant and remote. While to Australia the threat of invasion by Japan was more immediate, to New Zealand it was also perilously close. Despite their great anxiety, the people never faltered. The fighting men of New Zealand—those who were not already serving in European and African theatres—took their place beside their comrades from Australia who were resisting the invader. Together they held him at bay until United States forces were also in the firing line. In turning back the Japanese tide the New Zealanders have played a valiant part.

We are indeed proud to-day to recall that armed forces of Canada and armed forces of New Zealand have throughout the war fought side by side in many parts of the globe. I wish this afternoon to give you, Mr. Fraser, the assurance that this comradeship in arms will continue until, in both hemispheres, the defeat of our common enemies is accomplished. Thereafter the comradeship between our peoples at a time of war will become a partnership, closer than ever, in all that pertains to the arts of peace. Meanwhile, as a further evidence of the community of interest which exists between Canada and New Zealand, there will be tabled to-day, in your parliament and in ours, copies of a mutual aid agreement between Canada and New Zealand which was signed at Ottawa on the eve of your arrival in our country.

May I add how pleased we are that on your present visit you are accompanied by Mrs. Fraser and General Puttick, chief of the

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

general staff, New Zealand forces. To Mrs. Fraser and to General Puttick I would also extend a very cordial welcome. We wish you all, and all of your party, a pleasant sojourn in our capital and a safe return to your homeland. We wish your stay in Canada might have been a little longer. We would ask you to take with you to the people of New Zealand an expression of the admiration of the people of Canada for their outstanding contribution to the war effort of the united nations. We would like you to tell them of the pride Canada feels in the deepened friendship of our two countries. And we should be pleased if you would convey to the members of the armed forces and to all the people of New Zealand our best wishes for the success of their great endeavours.

I shall ask Mr. Graydon, the leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the House of Commons, to join me in the welcome being extended to-day on behalf of all members of the parliament of Canada to the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Prime Minister and hon. members of the Senate and of the House of Commons, ladies and gentlemen: I deem it a high honour to be granted the privilege of making unanimous the courteous and cordial welcome accorded so fittingly to New Zealand's distinguished Prime Minister on this war-time occasion by the Prime Minister of Canada.

Although that small but mighty island member of the British commonwealth is widely separated by distance from this dominion, no people stand higher in Canadian esteem. No people anywhere are closer to Canadian hearts. The exemplary character and conduct of those fine lads of the Royal New Zealand Air Force while here in training during this war have served to unite more firmly than ever the bonds of friendship between us.

New Zealand has strained her last sinew to lay her all on the altar of liberty. More than one out of every ten of her population will be found making their magnificent contribution in the armed services, while major decorations for gallantry awarded to her valiant fighters exceed in numbers those won by the forces of any other nation of like population in this war. Added to this, she had the distinction and honour of being the first of the Commonwealth powers to range herself at Britain's side when the present world-wide conflict came. On the home front too, her workers, her farmers, her industry and her citizens in general have shown the world, by their high level of war-time production and their personal sacrifices, what total war really means.