

*Mobilization Act—Mr. Church*

"You have the country at your service," Canon Woodcock told Mr. King. "All we ask is that you use it totally to win the war." The country expressed an opinion on the request of the Prime Minister to release him from promises, the speaker charged. "With an overwhelming 'yes' we responded to his request."

Canon Woodcock said that the vote released Mr. King from "anything to prevent you mobilizing this Canada for total war."

"We are not afraid of regimentation in this great war, when the struggle is for death or victory," the speaker declared.

Commenting that anyone who speaks to-day has a great responsibility, Canon Woodcock said "words must not be empty things in these days."

"I speak especially to these men whom I see before me."

Many of those men had served for four and half years in Flanders and France. I quote:

The speaker said that the dominion was proud of the veterans not only because of their acts in the last war but because of their conduct in those trying days between these two wars.

"They stood for the best traditions of the empire and always stood for imperial relations," Canon Woodcock stated.

"The veterans have been a steadying influence during these years, all of which have not been peaceful ones. And we did need a steadying influence during those days," the speaker said.

"To-day we meet in honour of this great empire. The gates have been set up like Jericho of old. Gates set up in the blood of the younger sons. We claim that we deserve this empire because it was procured at such a tremendous price—the price was blood. So we prize the empire. We idealize it. We think of it as standing for truth, justice, honour and fair play."

Those were the words of a great pastor, great citizen and great leader. When the Napoleonic wars were going so badly against England, Napoleon said:

This government foresaw nothing and only discovered difficulties when brought to a standstill by them.

A hundred thousand men have perished, the artisans of our defeats, the people responsible for our misfortunes, have no business to take any further part in our public life. They ought to remain in retirement and do their best to be forgotten.

To scatter forces in little packets is not the way to make war.

I have read the Prime Minister's speech twice to-day, and while it contains considerable information it fails to show what the objectives are under this bill. What are the objectives of the government during this fateful year, 1942, especially now that we are approaching the darkest hours of the summer. Indecision, after all is said and done, is one of the most fatal mistakes in war time. It is clear that the speech of the Prime Minister fails to let the country know where we are going to land. It is clear also that we have been

[Mr. Church.]

depending all along, and so has Britain, too much upon American supplies and upon America to defend us. As I said the other day, we need a minister of production in this country, who can and will organize our whole resources and man-power and materials in an all-out drive for production. The work of the present Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) is divided among himself and two other ministers, and I believe that we should have immediately one minister of production in charge of it all, because if Great Britain does not get the supplies she needs, the united nations will soon be in a very grave situation. We need a minister of production who will organize our whole resources for this war. After all is said and done, it is not America, but the mother country herself, that is the great arsenal of democracy to-day. Figures produced in the British House of Commons show that Britain's production is twice that of the United States. The United States, while her heart and soul is in the war, is not a military power, and it will be impossible for it within less than two years to attain the maximum production which is necessary to match the axis powers.

This country seems to be entirely lacking in anything like a war mentality. We are fighting the best organized enemy in the history of the world, and the most cruel and barbarous of all times. I would like to see commando empire troops raised and trained in the dominion. Commando in modern warfare are like armoured shock troops in their application, and are only in their infancy. But to send them to the continent alone would be a mistake, because they are useful only following in the wake of powerful tank brigades, which in turn must follow powerful fleets of bombers and fighters, with a fleet back of them. So far we are wanting in this, because our fleet is now being used in the war of survival to safeguard the lines of supply from America; but the job is now to see that these units of commando dreadnoughts, by divisions, are ready. Canada is the logical place to train them and to recruit them from all parts of the empire, as is being done under the air training plan. Our job should be to see that these units are forthcoming to aid Russia and Britain. Canada has produced magnificently in aircraft and munitions of various kinds, and I believe that we could contribute greatly by training commando troops in Canada.

I believe that this country is not doing its duty to those across the sea at the present time. This war is approaching the most critical days in the history of civilization, and yet Bill No. 80 is, in my opinion, merely a lot of window-dressing and shadow-boxing. It will not fool anybody. It is just a smoke-