

nave been the very spearhead of General Wavell's command. They have covered themselves with glory; their achievements have been, very properly, the subject of world acclaim, and nowhere, I hope, has that acclaim been given more wholeheartedly than here in Canada.

Loyal Canadians will not envy Australia the palms of glory that have come to her armed forces as a result of their courage and daring. To me personally there is an element of regret that no Canadians participated in this campaign. I have no criticism to offer at this moment that our gallant men of the first and second divisions were not represented in these achievements. There may be good and sufficient reasons why this country was not represented. The Prime Minister did not enlighten us. Perhaps at a later stage he will be good enough to tell us whether an expeditionary force of Canadians to Egypt was considered, and if not, just what the position is. I have no doubt that the personnel of the Canadian divisions in England would have welcomed an opportunity to participate.

With respect to the change which has taken place in recent months in the attitude of the United States towards the war to which the Prime Minister alluded, there is no doubt that the change has been marked and has gained great momentum, due, I think, almost wholly to the magnificent leadership given by the president of that great country.

Just a little over a year ago, and for some time after the declaration of war, I spent a considerable period of time in the United States. I had some opportunity of analysing public opinion as expressed in the press and elsewhere, and I confess to this house that at that time I was startled by the apparent strength of the so-called isolationist movement. There was the cry that the United States would never again participate in a European struggle, that the situation in Europe was no concern of theirs—in fact, there was a demand, which at that time I rather overestimated, that there should be no aid to Britain and the democracies except on a purely commercial basis. I read that outrageous book, *England Expects Every American To Do His Duty*, with a great deal of disgust.

There was, in some influential circles, a feeling of frustration, and in others almost a certainty that Britain and her ally could not whip Hitler. This feeling was greatly intensified by the fall of France and the happenings at Dunkirk. At that time there was a great preponderance of public opinion in the United States that Britain could not carry the whole load and that she was bound to succumb.

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

This feeling, however, produced in the minds of the great mass of thoughtful, liberty-loving people of that nation a tremendous reaction and revival of sympathy for the principles of liberty and democracy and for the only remaining active defender of liberty and democracy. The principles established by congress before the war opened, based on detachment and non-participation except on a purely commercial basis, were vigorously attacked by those thoughtful elements who realized to the full just what the fall of Britain would mean to them and to their country. Under the skilful and intelligent leadership of their president, the great mass of the people of the United States came to a realization that for the preservation of themselves and of all those things for which the republic was founded, they must make this their war if not their fight.

The tragedy and the unanswerable logic of the trend of events in May and June last brought the situation home to our great neighbour as, perhaps, nothing else could. They realize now that their own security, the preservation of what is termed "the American way of life," the democratic way of life, and its survival, are of supreme importance to them; and they know, too, that all these things may be preserved only by keeping the battle over there and by victory for Britain in the immediate theatre of war.

This is the theory which I have continuously urged upon the Canadian people as being the matter of most paramount importance in our war effort—that the defence of Britain and her ultimate victory and triumph in the theatre of war is our first and primary objective; that the defence of Canada is of secondary importance, but only secondary; and therefore we on this side of the chamber have advocated without cessation the doctrine that our first and foremost duty is to support and sustain Britain overseas, and to see to our own defence next. This doctrine in a degree has been accepted by the government of the United States. They subscribe to the principle and doctrine that the British navy and the Royal Air Force are their first line of defence, as they are ours, and to that end, effective aid to Britain, compatible with their duty to provide for their own defence, is of vital importance. Their resources, material and other, are vastly greater than those of any other nation in the world. Their stake in the outcome is as large and as vital as that of Britain; and a realization of that, and of the measures which they have adopted and are adopting, gives us the greatest hope for the future.

I have never allowed myself to think that Britain would not win this war. I do not