

and by our own Prime Minister, but the fact remains that Canada has not yet really suffered from the war.

Apart from war casualties, and fortunately they have been comparatively few, no one thus far in Canada has really been hurt by the war. The financial volume of business in this country reached in September its highest point in twenty years and employment in industry reached its highest level in the same period. Very few people in Canada are worse off than they were before the war, and countless thousands of persons have found their financial positions greatly improved. The impact of tax increases has hardly yet been felt. The cost of living has not greatly increased. Indeed, at the moment, we are in the midst of an exhilarating war construction and industrial expansion boom.

I think that this feeling of personal security has something to do with the slowness of the Canadian response to the war loan, but it would be absurd to say that the war loan was a failure. Nevertheless, the people of Canada are not yet as fully conscious as, in my opinion, they ought to be of the necessity of making the utmost personal sacrifices to ensure the continuance of the security which they now enjoy. Such warnings as the Prime Minister gave last night must be continually emphasized. While we are happy that the threatened nazi invasion of Great Britain has failed, every responsible person knows that there are grim days ahead, that there is serious danger involved in the intensified nazi submarine campaign, and that war-weariness is bound to bring about some reduction of morale. It is one thing for Great Britain to avert defeat by staving off an invasion, but it is quite another thing to accomplish victory. Great Britain will need every possible assistance that we can give her, and it is our solemn duty as a freedom-loving nation to give her our maximum aid.

For this reason we, as members of parliament and representatives of the people, will wish to know, not only what progress has been made with our war effort—and we are proud of its increasing momentum—but, what is perhaps even more important at this stage of our war effort, we will wish to be informed as to what has not yet been done and what must still be done. Are there any deficiencies in our war effort? If so, what are they and what steps can be taken to remedy them? Are we running short of efficient man-power in our war industries? If so, what efforts are being made to train men for special purposes? Is our war effort being restricted in any manner by financial considerations? If so, in what respect and how can these restrictions be removed? I suggest that it is on such matters

as these that we should concentrate our attention this session, and I am confident that if we do so the government will emerge from this session, as it did from the last one, with confidence on the part of the Canadian people that it is doing its utmost to discharge our national duty.

I said that I felt much happier over the war outlook than I did three months ago. Confidence in our ultimate success is essential, but excess of confidence and the taking of victory for granted have elements of danger that may well impede the success of our war efforts. The realities of the grim struggle in which we are engaged and the necessity of making every possible sacrifice must be continually placed before our people. I do not say that we should deliberately seek to create fear in our people, but it seems to be a fact that in all great conflicts nations make their strongest and most successful efforts when they are most hard pressed. Confidence of victory is valuable, but fear of possible disaster is an even more powerful incentive to united effort. It was fear of an invasion of Great Britain that stirred the people of that country to a united and determined war effort which has challenged the admiration of the world. It was fear of the possible destruction of Great Britain and the invasion of this hemisphere that brought about a changed sentiment towards the war in the United States and created their determination to give Great Britain all aid short of war. These facts should not be forgotten, and our own people must be kept continuously alive to the realization that an excess of optimism is dangerous. Victory for our cause is made more certain by a continuing realization of the appalling consequences of defeat and the necessity for the utmost sacrifice on the part of our people to prevent it.

In addition to making this country more conscious than it is at the present time of the grimness of the struggle in which we are engaged, in my opinion it is also necessary to embark immediately upon a programme of national reform which will at one and the same time accomplish two definite purposes: first, enable Canada to make its maximum contribution to the aid of Great Britain by removing any impediment to the success of our war effort that may exist in our national structure; and, second, at the same time lay the foundation for a strong Canada that will enable us to withstand the strains of the post-war period and prove to the people of Canada that democracy can work and is worth fighting for.

It would not be possible or desirable at this stage to elaborate the particulars of