

change and to-day a similar touchiness is evidenced among the various classes of our population. That is why, at the beginning of this war, and probably on account of the fact that it seemed impossible, nowadays, to witness the disappearance of freedoms we had gained through the course of time and by dint of hard struggles, it has seemed that the French-speaking population considered the present conflict as just another imperial venture conducing solely to more favourable geographical arrangements and to trade adjustments.

However, our church, government and military leaders; I mean our real leaders, Lapointe, Godbout, Power, Cardinal Villeneuve, Mgr. Charbonneau, Vanier, Leclerc, Panet, LaFlèche, to mention only those that readily come to my mind, those leaders, I say, were quick to tell our people that the present conflict is a total war threatening the political, social and moral institutions of all countries of the world, without excepting Canada or the province of Quebec; a war which is the most serious challenge to our civilization based on human freedom.

Our population then realized that it had the same reasons to oppose Hitler as had heroic Russia who now amazes the world by its marvellous courage, its incredible tenacity, its military prowess and its victories. The time had come for the axis countries to meet on their destructive march another people prizing freedom above life itself. My constituents greatly admire the Russians and the same feeling is noticeable in the ranks of every unit of the Canadian army.

The history of the world shows very clearly that American countries are privileged. All but a very few were founded and have lived in freedom. They have not, as Russia, been forced to tear down before rebuilding. To them freedom comes as naturally as the air they breathe or the rays of the sun that give them light and comfort. If they are generous at heart, and who would claim they are not, they should lead the fight for the rights of a free and Christian world. That is exactly what our town and country people understand and which gives them the courage to face the difficulties of the hour.

In October, 1942, I was permitted, as an observer, to be present at the American army manoeuvres in the state of Tennessee. In a few weeks, I soon learned the extent of the common aspirations and convictions of the nations of America, how well the gigantic and

planned effort of Canada in this war was valued and admired, and also what the Americans will expect from us when our troops finally come into contact with the common enemy. I also became gradually aware of the real meaning of the expression: brotherhood of nations, for the American is truly the brother of his Canadian neighbour.

I was very much impressed by the rapidity with which that great nation built its military and economic organizations, but what impressed me most was the following opinion expressed by a sergeant of the American army:

When every free man will understand that his mind be in unison with the mind of those who give their lives for liberty on the battle fields, when every free man will understand that the main goal of all free men calls for the same fervour, the same perseverance, the same firmness and the same toughness that we find in our armed forces, it will then be the beginning of the end of the war, not before.

I sincerely think, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian people have reached that stage and when the moment is ripe for action, nothing will stand before them. Speaking for my comrades overseas and myself, as I shall be with them in a few days, may I express the wish to witness that hour very soon.

The French speaking Canadians of my riding have gone through the same evolutions of thoughts and sentiments as their English speaking neighbours, and it is with joy and pride that they have learned of the steps personally taken by the Minister for National Defence (Mr. Ralston) to give them, in the conduct of the armed forces of our country, a share proportionate to the increasing number and experience of our French speaking soldiers. Accordingly, we have witnessed the creation of infantry brigades, artillery regiments, and I am proud to be in command of one of them, battalions of engineers, tank regiments, army service corps and signals, hospital and field ambulances, of one bomber squadron, also of camps, naval stations and training schools for sailors, soldiers and airmen of French language, in command of French speaking officers. This task is carried on every day; but for its final achievement we still need the unanimous and unreserved support of all my French speaking fellow-countrymen, including those who are at present more worried about post-war conditions than about the efficient pursuit of the war itself.

I can only mention here the complete co-operation existing between the officers of the two great races of this country. Indeed, this