

citizens have secured the trade of the conquered countries and are consequently in a position to do business in all parts of the world, if those nations have acquired all those possessions, it is through war.

Do you think that in the other group of nations, including Germany, Italy and Japan, no men could be found who have not been thinking and studying history and reaching the same conclusions as we have? Those three nations, stifled in their boundaries, will some day enlarge their possessions by resorting to violence, armaments, war and conquest. Take the last two instances of invasions: Manchuria, conquered in order to provide an outlet for Japanese citizens; and the conquest of Ethiopia, the natural resources of which England and France coveted. But those two great powers, rather than start a world war, let Italy take possession of that immense area in which she could pour her surplus population.

Germany is overcrowded. She demands colonies. She casts greedy eyes on Poland. She is preparing for war and is armed up to the teeth.

Do you think the nations in the latter group, dissatisfied with their lot and jealous of other great powers, have been arming in order merely to have the satisfaction of looking at fine soldiers parading the streets? Those nations follow the example set by the nation to which we all belong. War will break out some day. Let us still hope that it will not be too soon and that we will not be called upon to participate in it.

I would now like to make a statement, sir. As a matter of principle, I am opposed to foreign wars, to our participation in wars fought in Europe, Africa or Asia. But I will not admit that, being an integral part of the British Empire, in the event of our territory being invaded, we should stand aloof. I am in favour of defending the Canadian territory. If the day ever comes when we must defend it, I want to be in the position of the man who buys insurance, as the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger) said, I want to take the insurance before any accident happens. I want a little protection at home.

On that question of defence estimates, I have been and I am consulting every day electors in my constituency, and I will tell you an incident which confirms my own views. In our town, we have one of the finest regiments in Canada. That regiment has been in existence for more than twenty years, but without quarters suitable to its normal development. On more than one occasion, we have asked for a drill hall in Hull in order to accommodate our regiment.

[Mr. Fournier.]

Before approving the scheme, I asked its promoter to ascertain what the general opinion was and to inform me if a majority of the population, of organizations and of persons of standing in my constituency were in favour of the proposal. The movement was started in the spring of 1935. I asked the leading organizations in my district for their opinion before taking a stand myself. The archbishop of the diocese has been approached on that question by Mr. Thomas Moncion, chairman of the Senior Chamber of Commerce. I have a copy of a letter addressed by Mgr. Forbes to Mr. Moncion, on May 13, 1935, and I will read it:

May 13, 1935.

Mr. Thomas Moncion,  
Chairman of the Senior Chamber  
of Commerce,

Hull, Que.

Dear Sir:

Having been acquainted with the request that the Hull Senior Chamber of Commerce has the intention of presenting to the dominion government for the building of a drill hall in the city of Hull, it gives me great pleasure to encourage such a movement and to wish it success. I will go so far as encouraging it by means of the present letter. It seems to me that a drill hall is essential in Hull, because of the existence of a regular regiment. Its construction would provide work for the numerous unemployed in the city; and the existence of such a building would be useful to the city of Hull in various occasions, in addition to giving accommodation to soldiers.

Believe me yours religiously,

(Signed) Guillaume Forbes,

Archbishop of Ottawa.

A few days ago, after the defence estimates had been brought down in the house, my parish priest wrote to me as follows, under date of January 30, 1937:

Les Missionnaires Oblats de  
Marie-Immaculée,  
Presbytère Notre-Dame-de-Grâce,  
Hull, Que., January 30, 1937.

Mr. Alphonse Fournier, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Fournier:

Those interested in the plan have asked me to write a letter for the purpose of recommending the building of a drill hall in Hull. I willingly grant that request.

The Hull Regiment, in existence for many years, has so far been accommodated in rented quarters, while, in other cities, military units have suitable buildings. In consequence it seems only reasonable that the Hull regiment have their own drill hall, considering moreover that the project would have the effect of relieving unemployment in these times of distress.