

learn to fulfil them properly. In this campaign of education it will be well to avoid abuses and that party spirit which too often blinds the people instead of enlightening them.

In 1914 we committed gross abuses of language, theories and expenditure.

I am not yet disposed to take an attitude other than the one I honestly took against the excesses of the war period. I took it because I loved my country beyond all else. I still love it and I am more and more in favour of the "Canada First" policy.

As I once stated in the presence of representatives of France and England, the new world is tired of the eternal quarrels of the European nations. If the older countries cannot better understand the new rôle of Christian civilization, America will have to teach it to them. The time will come when America, who wants peace, will impose its policy.

When the defence estimates are submitted to Parliament, the Government should clearly define and explain to the people what they mean by the defence of Canada.

Let us carefully consider these questions in time of peace, not under the stress of passion, but in the light of reason.

Hon. F. B. BLACK: Honourable members, I had no intention of participating in this debate, but I desire to make a few brief observations in order to satisfy myself and settle my own mind. I regret very much that my honourable friend who sits opposite (Hon. Mr. Lacasse) should have made the remark that he did this afternoon. I hope he will take what I say in the spirit in which it is offered. I listened with attention to the entire debate of yesterday and heard no reference by either of our leaders to the participation of Canada in a war on foreign soil, and I think the honourable gentleman was ill-advised to bring this feature into the debate at the present time. It is because of his remark that I rise to my feet.

Everything that was said yesterday related to the defence of Canada as part of the British Commonwealth of Nations and as an integral part of the British Empire. Where should we all be to-day, regardless of our national origins, if it were not for the protection that the British Empire has given us in the past and is giving us to-day? There is not a man within the sound of my voice, nor a thoughtful citizen of Canada, who would contend that we as a nation should not be prepared to defend ourselves against an aggressor.

There has not been until to-day any suggestion that Canada would take part in a

war of aggression, but every thoughtful citizen of this country must know that in order to defend itself Canada may have to go outside its own borders. We did that once before, not because we chose to do it, but because circumstances compelled us. For two and a half years the great republic to the south of us did everything possible to keep from being involved in the Great War, in which it had no personal stake, but in the end it was forced to take part. It was forced to take part, not by the British Empire, not by the world at large, but in order to defend the civilization which had been built up in that part of the North American continent south of our southerly boundary.

I am free to admit that we may find ourselves in such a position in the future that we shall have to take part in a war on foreign soil, but I do not anticipate such a thing. There was not within the walls of this House yesterday a single statement that would lead any person to believe that because we were preparing to assume our share of the burden of defending our own land we would take part in a foreign war.

I was very much pleased to read in the press about the plans drawn up by the Minister of Defence. Whether or not he has gone far enough, he has made a step in the right direction. I think we should rid our minds of the idea that we should not talk defence. We must call things what they are, and must recognize the situation which faces us and the rest of the Empire. Honourable members who were present at the Imperial Conference a year ago last summer listened to spokesmen from every unit of the British Commonwealth of Nations, each and every one of whom voiced the desire to be sufficiently prepared to be able to take part, if necessary, in the mutual defence of the Empire. That is all that those of us who believe in reasonable rearmament desire. Does anyone suppose that all the elements that go to make up the British nation, with its forty-five millions of people, would agree to the enormous expenditures that are being made on armaments if they did not believe that the Union Government which represents them in Parliament was acting for the defence of the nation, even though that defence, as defence sometimes does, should make it necessary to take the offensive? If the British Government is right, are not those of us here who believe in reasonable preparation right on our part?

I took but a very small part in the last war, and I do not want to see any more war. I came into contact with a German shell somewhat early in the game. But I took a greater part than some who have said they would raise an army to oppose men leaving this