

have no doubt that in the future it will present them with many curious problems.

It is interesting to consider what Canada's position would be if we were part of the French Empire, for instance. I have looked into that situation, and have gone into the position of the different French colonies. First of all, I find that the peace army of France—that is to say, the army of to-day—consists of 635,000 men, behind whom stand the trained reserves, which would probably bring the total up to 2,000,000 men. The peace-time army of France is composed as follows: there are Frenchmen in France, 383,000; the Foreign Legion, 16,500; North African native troops, 103,500; colonial native troops, 87,500; irregular and auxiliary native troops, 12,500; the gendarmerie and the National Guard, 32,000. One-third of the peace-time army of France is raised in the colonies of France. If Canada were a part of the French Empire we should have to maintain an army by conscription, and we should have to support that army by taxation. We should not be consulted about the conscription or the taxation, and upon the outbreak of war we should deliver our troops to the Mother Country. That would be our position if we were part of the Empire of France, one of the most liberal nations of the world. What our position would be if we were part of some other empire I could not say. It is part of the war plans of France at the outbreak of war to transport to France, in order to fight for France, 450,000 men from the North African colonies. Those troops are all conscripted in the colonies to which they belong, and they are supported by taxation in those colonies as far as their budgets will go.

If we were part of the French Empire we should not be sitting here discussing whether or not we would do this, that or the other thing; what we should do would be laid before us, and it would be our duty to obey. I would bring these considerations to the attention of some honourable gentlemen who have very pronounced views on the matter of rendering any assistance at all to the British Empire.

Now, in the whole of this question of national defence, which aims at security—to the end that our institutions may be carried on without threat or danger, and that we may enjoy life, liberty, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness—what is the overriding consideration? It is this. We are part of a great Empire, a great commonwealth united by bonds of language, common aims, common objects and the like. This Empire embraces a quarter of the earth's surface, and has one-quarter of the population of the world. The

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bonds which bind the component parts together are of the lightest possible character. They do not bear heavily on us at all. In this Empire, by reason of its strength and population, it is possible to enjoy in full measure a security which will make for our happiness. We can find a measure of security which we can find in no other way. What is the overriding, the dominating fact in all this? It is that Great Britain herself is the core of the Empire; that she is herself a great power; that during the past three hundred years she has made a mighty contribution to the progress of the world in its conceptions of liberty, justice and common decency. Within the last ten years her exertions for the maintenance of peace have gained for her the confidence and respect of all mankind. It seems to me, therefore, that aside from all questions of chivalry, honour and the like, considerations of interest point to the adoption of collective security within the Empire.

If by some terrible catastrophe Great Britain were reduced to the status of a second-rate power, what would happen? The life of every individual in the British Empire would be changed. Nothing would remain as it was. Australia would have to give up the vision of a white Australia. Every statute, every treaty, every contract, every agreement which exists to-day in countries like South Africa, New Zealand and Canada, for the protection of the rights of minorities, and which enables people to live decently and harmoniously together, would go by the board. Life would be radically and adversely changed for every single individual if Great Britain fell to the status of a second-rate power. If it be true, then, that within the British Empire we may find a larger measure of security than can be found in any other way, and if by co-operation with the other parts of the Empire we can secure for ourselves and those who come after us an opportunity for development along the lines which we have laid out, it is, it seems to me, the part of wisdom and common sense to follow but one course. To do so can be supported, I think, on every possible ground, and if we arrive at that conclusion and live up to the agreements we make, then, and only then, will it be possible for us to hand over to succeeding generations the great estate that has been committed to us.

Hon. A. H. MACDONELL: Honourable senators, I listened with a great deal of pleasure to the remarks of the honourable gentleman who has just taken his seat, particularly to the points he brought out regarding the fact that we have no protection for our coasts and for the trade of this country. He spoke of aeroplane carriers. Every word