

forced upon England. Neither the government nor the opposition wants a policy of that kind; it has been forced upon them.

We know the terms of the Militia Act, as they are contained in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of chapter 132 of the statutes, where the manner in which the militia can be called out for military purposes is described. Then, under section 66 it is provided that if parliament is separated by an adjournment or prorogation which will not expire within ten days, proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of parliament within fifteen days. But before that could be done the country would be invaded.

As was pointed out by my right hon. leader in an address delivered in Chalmers church, this country owes the motherland a great deal for all she has done and is doing. What are we doing in Canada? We have no foreign policy, and we are depending entirely upon the mother country. Our representatives went to the imperial conference last year and took part in the coronation ceremonies. Our troops were in the line. It is true that an imperial conference was held, but in my opinion it was a complete failure. It failed to solve any problem from which we suffer to-day in respect of trade, defence or migration. It failed to solve the shipping problem. The empire has 2,000 less ships than it had before the war. Yet we are willing as a dominion to sponge on the mother country for land defence, and for the air force and a fleet to protect our shores. We were content to have our contingents go to London and to take their place in the ceremonial parade through London's streets; we were prepared to let our ministers take a trip over there. They made many speeches at banquets, and all that sort of thing—even the Minister of Justice made some of them. They proceed to tell what grand fellows we are in Canada, and yet they are not willing to contribute anything to help the mother country in her hour of trouble.

The speech of the Prime Minister is one of isolation. That is the policy of isolation followed by Ireland and South Africa. We have been told that Canada has been advised but not consulted. In my opinion that is a distinction without a difference. If it were not for the mother country to-day we would be neither advised nor consulted by the dictators; they would just drop in by aeroplane, and we would soon learn what our policy of isolation would amount to.

We have nothing with which to back up any foreign policy—nothing but talk and platitudes. Our policy is negative; certainly it

[Mr. Church.]

is not positive. It is a policy which has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. It was a cold answer in my opinion given by the government to the questions asked last February. At that time an official or semi-official announcement was made in the house, after a statement was made in London, to the effect that the dominion had been consulted last February concerning critical affairs. Ottawa declared at that time that the Dominion of Canada had not been consulted by the government of Great Britain with regard to foreign policy, and did not want to be consulted. No more cold-hearted or icy words could have been pronounced to the people of Canada by a government. The mother country's back is to the wall, fighting dictators. She is confronted by dictators on all sides—by Hitlers and Mussolinis. We let London minister to our curiosity, but that is the extent of our interest in looking after the clash between dictatorships and democracies.

Canada's foreign policy is a myth, because she has no policy. It boils down to consultation, understanding and cooperation, but with whom it does not say. We used to depend upon the league. Canada followed the league and did everything it could. The last two or three governments have cooperated with the league, but what has happened to it? It led the mother country to disarmament, and the result was that Germany crossed the Rhine and invaded Austria; Italy captured Ethiopia; Japan annexed Manchuria and is now capturing China. The government has shifted its position and is now depending upon the Monroe doctrine and pan-Americanism. That seems to be the popular cry to-day in the continent of America, the continent to which we belong, in connection with foreign policy.

If this is all the foreign policy Canada has, then I say the government should defend itself at the polls, and if it does it will not have the majority it has to-day. I condemn this secrecy and this hush, hush policy regarding foreign affairs. This is not only the affair of the officers in the Department of National Defence or the Department of External Affairs. It is a matter which is of importance to and belongs to all the people of Canada, and one in which they are deeply interested. The public should be taken into the confidence of the government, and the matter should not be kept strictly to departmental officials.

Great Britain was wise to forget the past and to make friends with Italy. It was a stupid quarrel in the first place, when the