

In the speech from the throne the Prime Minister has put certain words into the mouth of His Excellency the Administrator. I quote:

You have been summoned to the first session of a new parliament at a time of the greatest conflict in the history of mankind. Upon the outcome of the struggle will depend the maintenance of civilized society and the inheritance of human freedom for our own and future generations.

Those words are true, but later on these words appear:

The organization and prosecution of Canada's war effort have commanded the unremitting attention of my ministers.

I have no doubt they have been busy letting contracts.

The constant consultation and complete co-operation maintained with the governments of the United Kingdom and France have been materially strengthened by the recent visit to those countries of my Minister of National Defence.

Then it goes on to make this statement:

While the present session of parliament will necessarily be mainly concerned with Canada's war effort, and the measures essential to the achievement of ultimate victory, my ministers are of opinion that, despite what to-day is being witnessed of concentrated warfare, it is desirable, as far as may be possible, to plan for the days that will follow the cessation of hostilities.

These paragraphs read together, presuppose that the government has been doing the utmost in its power to further the effort of the mother country and her gallant allies. If so, all I can say is that my right hon. friend and his government have most skilfully concealed from the Canadian people the sum total of their effort, because the country to-day—and no one is more sensitive to public opinion than the Prime Minister and his colleagues—is giving every evidence of its belief that this state of affairs does not exist.

I wish to put upon *Hansard* certain specific questions which I hope the Prime Minister or some of his colleagues will answer:

1. Is the empire training plan being rushed with all speed?

2. When shall we be sending trained men overseas under this plan—a year hence? If so, it will be too late.

3. How far have we advanced with the second division? I understand that the Prime Minister to-day, according to the public press, is going to announce a third division. Well, we have not got the second division ready yet. How far have we advanced with the second division?

4. What provision have we made to reinforce the first division? What is being done about recruiting and enlistment? Why is so

[Mr. R. B. Hanson (York-Sunbury).]

little being done about enlistment? Is manpower no longer required? On the economic front, have we mobilized to the utmost our plant and industrial power?

These are some of the thoughts that are crowding through my mind, and I believe they are in the minds of the Canadian people. Our industrialists in Canada are patriotic and are anxious to do their part, but they cannot get a chance. At the Chateau Laurier the lobbies are lined with men from the United States trying to get orders, and I have seen a good Canadian there, a man at the head of one of the biggest plants in Canada, who told me he had found it absolutely impossible to get an order for war equipment. I will not mention either his name or the name of his company. If I did so, the name would be recognized as that of one of the biggest industrialists in Canada, and he would have little chance of getting anything, and he fears this too if his name were mentioned.

Mr. HOWE: For what reason?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): For the same reason that he is not getting any now.

Mr. HOWE: Perhaps my hon. friend, having gone so far, will mention the name of the firm?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): No, I shall not; I have not his permission. In fact, I have the reverse. I have had a long conversation with him and I know what I am talking about.

An hon. MEMBER: What would he like to manufacture?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Aeroplanes. I will not say more. He is manufacturing aeroplanes for the British government. I am not going to weary the house, but I might ask this question: What about personnel? What about those among the personnel of the last war, members of the Canadian expeditionary force, who wish to serve? I know many of them. Many of them came to see me before I left for Ottawa and asked me to find out how they can get into the army again. They were men who were officers in the last war and who are capable of commanding units. How can they get into the army again? I made it my business to inquire at one of the departments. I do not know whether I was violating any rule laid down in this house since I was last a member, but I had the temerity to go to one of the higher officials in the department, and he told me that officers are being recruited and selected from the non-permanent militia. They are splendid men, I have no doubt, men who are keen to serve and of course I do know that some men are being selected from the old Canadian expeditionary

force. But why not more, say twenty-five per cent? Do experience and mature judgment mean nothing?

These are some of the things I am thinking about. There may be a good answer. I do not think any government which has in its ranks the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Defence would have any prejudice against members of the Canadian expeditionary force; in fact, one would suppose the opposite to be the truth. I wish to do them justice. But why are not more of these men being taken on? They are asking this question, and we too must have the courage to ask it. The empire training scheme must be brought to the maximum of speed. We must have an intensified scheme of recruiting for reinforcement of our overseas division, and we must mobilize our industrial equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize to this house for having detained it so long. During the past few days and over the weekend our hearts have been heavy with anxiety. We know that the first big push, the first big battle, is on. It is not ended yet. The forces of barbarism are stronger than we had any conception of. But I am glad to think the battle is not yet lost. At this moment there is no indication that the momentum of the enemy push is slowing up, not to speak of being stopped. But I have supreme confidence in the ability of the British and allied arms to withstand the shock. Stability will be established. But do not imagine that this is the end. Rather it is but the beginning of new and more severe aggressive action on the part of the enemy. The next drive may be the invasion of England herself, the first in ten centuries; and when that happens, then, my friends, this war will be that much nearer to us, and the event will carry with it to us an increasing anxiety and a correspondingly increasing obligation. Shall we rise to the occasion with our supreme effort? We must. We shall not falter. I was heartened yesterday in listening to the speech of Mr. Churchill. He is a man of stout heart. As I listened to him I recalled that England has been in many wars. She has won and lost many battles, but I am proud to think that England has always won the last battle. It is our hope and trust that she will do so in this war also.

This party which I have the honour to represent for the time being is prepared to help to the utmost. I cannot make that statement too strong. But we want to know and to be shown what is going on. The government must demonstrate to the people of Canada that the trust reposed in the government has not been betrayed, that the mandate given will be carried out to the utmost. I am not thinking in terms of party; I am thinking in terms of Canadianism.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) in concluding his remarks referred to the extremely grave situation which all free countries are facing, we in Canada in common with those great and brave countries, Britain and France and other nations formerly neutral, that have suffered so severely in the course of recent months. On Friday last my hon. friend asked me a question, to which I replied. The question related to the situation as it was at the time. When I had replied, indicating how very critical it was, my hon. friend said that he wished to assure me at once that he and his party desired to give all the cooperation they possibly could to the government, to support them in any action which they might be ready to take, and to assist in every way in the face of a common peril. My hon. friend concluded his remarks this afternoon in much the same strain. I had rather expected, I should perhaps say I had rather hoped, that in rising to reply to him to-day on the first day of the debate on the address, my remarks might be wholly congratulatory on his attitude and in the nature of renewed thanks on the part of the government to him and those associated with him for the cooperation which they had offered and which we believed they were prepared to give in full measure. I do wish to thank my hon. friend for what he has said in regard to the cooperation that is intended. I wish also to congratulate him on some of the remarks he made this afternoon. I am pleased indeed to find that in the discharge of the new duties that have fallen upon him he is full of the old vigour which he displayed in previous years and is now in a position where he may be able to contribute more and more to the public life of this country, as he has just said was his motive in wishing to be returned to parliament. I am sure all hon. members hope he may have that opportunity for many years to come. But I had expected that the offer of cooperation which my hon. friend gave would not be followed quite so quickly by a return to the political battles that were fought prior to and during the last general election. I did hope, in the light of the solemnity of this hour, that when he rose to speak he would say that all had better forget the battles that had taken place—

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): He said that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:—accept the verdict the Canadian people pronounced so emphatically at the last general election, and from now on act, as far as it might be possible so to do, as of one mind in this House of Commons, giving to each other all the assistance we possibly can.