

empire affairs will progressively increase. It is not beyond possibility that in the near future we shall find ourselves with a population and an industrial output approximately fifty per cent of that of the United Kingdom. With that population together with our great agricultural resources we can no longer escape our destiny as an international force.

The day of little Canadianism is over for all time. Let us review what the isolationism of the past has meant to Canada. In the empire conference held prior to the war criticism was levelled at us because we would have no commitments whatsoever with regard to a unified imperial policy. Unfortunately, apparently, that still is the policy of the Prime Minister. He has said that we will not commit ourselves to a forward policy for joint defence, that he will not commit us to a joint agreement with the empire on security. He still adheres to the policy he announced on January 26, 1937, when he said:

I ought to make it quite clear that we will not necessarily become involved in any war into which other parts of the British empire may enter simply because we are a part of the British empire.

He stated that his government adhered to the moderate central point of view, neither imperialist nor isolationist, and that they would take account of the interests of all those with whom they might be associated, but that the interests would primarily be based on the interests of Canada in every situation as it presented itself.

That, from what was said this morning, is still the fundamental position to-day. In other words, we are still fooling ourselves that in a world of extreme practical reality, and because we have the statute of Westminster, which satisfies our own national pride, we believe that a predatory nation will take cognizance of this statute and because of it will not consider us as a belligerent.

I believe this is living in a fools' paradise. History again and again has shown that this is so. It amounts to this: we will make no commitments; we will not have a foreign policy with regard to the empire, we will participate in no permanent imperial council, we will have nothing to say until war actually breaks out, and then we will say it on the battlefield. It is on this point that I disagree with the Prime Minister's policy. It is unreal; it is impractical; it may be of political advantage, but it will certainly lead to another war which we as Canadians will have had no power to prevent. Because of our unique position—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I interrupt my hon. friend just a moment? I hope he will not feel that because I am not interrupting him I am agreeing that his representation of my position is what my position is. I want to make it quite clear that I stand by anything I myself have said, but I do not accept my hon. friend's interpretation of my words as at all representing my position.

Mr. ADAMSON: This, Mr. Chairman, was my interpretation. I listened very carefully this morning, and I have taken a lot of trouble to read what the Prime Minister has said regarding external and foreign policy.

The point I want to bring out, and I shall try to do so as I continue, is that the policy which he has in the past followed has not prevented us from being dragged into two major world wars. I am suggesting that the policy which he still follows will not prevent a third major world war if it should unfortunately develop. I am trying to present my argument along those lines, and I believe that the Prime Minister, if he will follow me, will see what I am trying to develop.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, as long as it is understood between us that the policy is as I have stated it in my own words and not as my hon. friend interprets it, he is free to say anything he likes, and further, if it is understood that I am listening to him and my only reason for not interrupting is not that I agree, but simply that I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend.

Mr. ADAMSON: I thank the Prime Minister for not wishing to interrupt me and I am glad to have him listen to what I have to say. To continue, I repeat that the Prime Minister's policy amounts to this: we will have no commitments; we will have no joint foreign policy with the empire, we will participate in no permanent imperial council, and we will have nothing to say until war actually breaks out; then we will say it on the battlefield. That has happened. It is at this point that I disagree with the Prime Minister's policy, or rather lack of policy. It is unreal and impractical. It may be of political advantage, but it will certainly lead to another war, which we as Canadians will have had no opportunity to prevent. Because of our unique position, we must insist that our point of view be considered by the United Kingdom government, and furthermore this must be a continuous operation. The impersonal cipher telegram and the long distance telephone are no substitute for continuous consultation. While the function of the high commissioner is useful, it must be remembered