

not have made the splendid contribution we have made, and if our leader has made that unity possible he should be given the credit, just as Mr. Churchill is deservedly honoured for the leadership which he has given Britain.

There is another reason why I am glad that destiny ordained that the present Prime Minister should be our leader prior to and when this war struck us. I have reference to his record of friendship with the United States of America. It must be admitted that we were greatly relieved by, for example, the Ogdensburg agreement, with the declaration of the President of the United States that he would not see Canada brought into subjection by a European state. That statement implied that the United States guaranteed that Canada would not be defeated by Germany and it was approved by the people of the United States. It did not go unnoticed by Germany and Japan; for they realized that if the United States could not see Canada defeated it meant that in order to defeat Canada they would ultimately have to strike at the United States, so it followed in the natural course of events that the United States sooner or later would become our ally. Who of us to-day that wishes to be honest with himself can do other than thank God that the United States stands by our side face to face with the power and might of the German reich? And is it not something to be thankful for that a programme was pursued by our government and our Prime Minister, year after year, of friendship and close collaboration with the United States and their great leader? When the history of this era comes to be written, and particularly of the epochal meeting between the Prime Minister of Great Britain, a country at war, with the President of the United States, not yet at war—at which time there was laid down the Atlantic charter, which in effect was a declaration of war against nazi Germany and all it stands for—it may very well be said that the Prime Minister of Canada had acted as a bridge between the two English-speaking countries and had more to do with that meeting, the Atlantic charter and the resulting present situation than many perhaps realize.

Our war effort, by all admission, has been a magnificent one. It has been magnificent because of the unity which alone made great national achievement possible. It has been magnificent because our leader has had the ability to surround himself with able and outstanding men and has given them the authority and the power to go ahead and do the best they could in their own departments without being continually hampered by dictation from him.

[Mr. Tucker.]

In regard to the war effort I should like to mention, in passing, that I regret it has not been found possible to locate more war industries in western Canada. We in the west realized at a time of great urgency, particularly after Dunkirk, that speed in getting out war materials was most important, and we did not unduly press for the setting up of industries in the prairie part of Canada. But now that the turn has come for the better, as it has, we do urge that the government should recognize our forbearance at that time, should realize what has been done to decentralize industry all over the United States and stimulate manufacturing particularly in the western and central part of that country, and do something of the same kind in Canada. We ask particularly that a start be made in the production in western Canada of alcohol from grain grown in the west as a basis for a synthetic rubber industry there. In the past we have always been told, as one reason why industry could not be established in western Canada, that the raw materials would have to be shipped long distances to be fabricated there. In this case we have untold quantities of raw materials which could be turned into alcohol and then into synthetic rubber. I ask that everything possible be done—perhaps it is already being done; I hope it is—to spread a certain amount of industrial production over the western part of Canada, particularly in the prairie provinces.

I wish to express to the government, and in particular the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) my appreciation of their having done away with the requirement which obliged loyal citizens of German origin who were naturalized following the last war to humiliate themselves by reporting each month to the mounted police in their own districts. When that requirement was first imposed our people were in a state of nervous alarm because of Dunkirk and what had happened elsewhere in Europe. It was perhaps understandable that they should be uneasy. But those of us in this house, of all parties, who were acquainted with these people knew that with the exception of one or two here and there, practically all of them were loyal to this country, and it was too bad that they were subjected to that obligation. I thank the government and the minister for having removed it.

The next thing I wish to refer to is the attitude of the government at the outbreak of war. We all recall the speech of the Prime Minister asking parliament to declare war on the German reich. The policy was laid down that we would stand at Britain's side. However, we noted at that time the activities throughout the country of a party which