

that we shall never strike a blow unless Great Britain agrees with the course we take and is ready to stand at our side. To say that because changes occur in the government of Great Britain we cannot co-operate with that country in matters of defence is a statement unworthy of the intellect of my honourable friend. Changes in the British government would not affect our co-operation in the slightest. The determination of Great Britain to maintain her integrity against her foes is a determination that never changes, and in that determination and its consequent policy we can co-operate. I simply say that in the great policy of defence we ought to begin to co-operate with Great Britain at once.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would draw my right honourable friend's attention to the statement of Sir John A. Macdonald that we should not enter into any British war without having our obligations defined under an agreement.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: My honourable friend referred to that before, but I did not answer it because I did not think it deserved an answer. The situation of fifty or sixty years ago is not the situation of to-day. What Sir John A. Macdonald had in mind was that we should not participate in every little conflict in which Great Britain became engaged, such as a fight in Egypt, in Abyssinia, and so on.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Or in Germany or France.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Does anybody doubt where Sir John A. Macdonald would have stood with regard to any life-and-death struggle?

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: What he suggested was that we ought to enter into an arrangement as to what we will do. We are not entering into such an arrangement to-day. I do not know but that we might well do so, but I am not suggesting that we should. I would not go so far as he did in that respect. I am simply urging that we enter into a policy of co-operation for defence; and I mean defence against what might result in our destruction or subjection. I am not thinking at all of little sporadic actions in which Great Britain might be engaged here, there and everywhere, such as that which is going on in Palestine to-day. What I am concerned with is whether this country is going to remain free or not. I ask the honourable leader of this House and the whole Government to keep in mind that that is the

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

kind of issue we are facing. The issue is not such as my honourable friend keeps harping upon every now and again, as to whether we shall send an expedition to Abyssinia or to Egypt.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would point out to my right honourable friend that we cannot bind ourselves to participate in any and every war in which Great Britain is engaged.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am not asking that, and never have asked that. Nor have I ever suggested that Parliament should endorse that kind of thing. And this talk about Parliament having to decide before we take part in a war is simply the uttering of words without any meaning. Certainly Parliament has to decide on everything that a government does; but when a government proclaims that its policy is to let Parliament decide, it is only saying in effect that it does not know what on earth to do.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The present Government has said that it will not assume any responsibility for declaring war or entering into war unless the Parliament of Canada has decided that we should participate.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: No Canadian government ever did participate in a war without the approval of Parliament. Nevertheless, it is nonsense to say that the Government would under no circumstances enter into war until Parliament had decided upon our participation. Suppose a war broke out between a Far Eastern country and the United States of America, and that the Far Eastern country sought entrance to the United States through Canada. Does the honourable leader say that in such circumstances his Government would wait to consult Parliament?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No. We should have to act then to defend Canada.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Of course. But that is not what my honourable friend said a little while ago.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Oh, yes.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Then, according to my honourable friend, Parliament would not necessarily be consulted in the matter of defence of Canada, but would be consulted only with respect to a war that was taking place outside Canada. However, the defence of Canada is not what in the first instance is going to give us trouble. What will trouble us will be defence of the ring of steel which surrounds us and has surrounded us all through our history. But here I am