

country, that when Great Britain is at war Canada is at war; he voted immediate aid to Britain, and the people backed him up unanimously. To-day what have we? We have a situation in which to please the fancy and imagination of our new status friends there must first be a vote of the members of this house. I can say to them to-night, in substance and in fact, that the 1,340 passengers on the *Athenia* were not given a chance to vote for or against war; the dictators sent that ship to the bottom of the sea, and I say we owe a duty to those passengers to-night. I think instead of quoting Lowell and other authors it would have been far better if in his speech which lasted nearly four hours the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) had quoted Mr. Chamberlain, who spoke for sixteen minutes, and our own king, who received such a glorious reception in this country who spoke for six minutes. One of the most remarkable things in Canada to-day is the tremendous popularity of the monarchy and the decline in popularity of the House of Commons. Why? Because we sit here in a grave emergency like this considering not the substance but the form, which I say is absolutely unnecessary. We all know we are at war.

This new status of ours, as I have said, is in part responsible for the situation that exists in the world to-day. As a former premier of France said, you never know what to expect from the British empire; it has so many units; they are so far apart and they all claim equal status, so it is pretty hard to deal with them and get a finality or unity. That is so, and that is one of the causes of the present situation. I think in all the churches of the land we should offer thanks to-morrow to those two glorious countries, France and England. Eventually in France eight million men will be under arms, and in that country many of our young men sleep their last sleep. We should all offer up prayers to-morrow in all the churches; as the psalmist says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" We should offer our thanks in all Canada to Britain and France for our salvation, safety and security.

I believe all the freedom we have in Canada to-day, the freedom in the pulpit, in the press, in the legislatures, and in the universities, we owe to the mother country, and but for the protection of the British and French fleets our churches would not be opening to-morrow. I have heard enough of this talk of non-participation in war. The first people to be attacked will be the people of the maritimes, Quebec, and British Columbia. If it were not for God's greatest secular gift to

[Mr. Church.]

humanity, the British and French fleets, every house and every store in every city from coast to coast in this country as well as all the cities on the Atlantic seaboard in the United States would be blackened out to-night.

In a time such as this the press has a duty to perform, and I believe the press has measured up to that duty splendidly. I am afraid I cannot say the same of the radio, which should be under censorship to help maintain the morale of the people. I wish to offer only constructive suggestions at this time, because this is a time of war and in such a time it is the duty of the opposition to support the government as much as possible, to accord the maximum of support with the minimum of criticism. That is what we, as an opposition, are here for to-day. I believe the people should have been given the facts. So long as hon. gentlemen opposite constitute the government of the day, the responsibility is upon them to decide on the policy to be followed by this country, but I believe it would have been far better if during the past nine months the Prime Minister and the Department of External Affairs had given the people of Canada all the facts. The lack of appreciation of the militia that exists to-day and the apathy the public has shown are due in part to the fact that the people have not been given all the information and the facts to which I believe they are entitled. In my opinion the people to blame for the tragedy of to-day are the pacifists, the peace societies and the league. They led Britain to scrap the finest army, air force and navy the world ever saw, and you cannot get it back in a day or generation. Do hon. members forget that Germany nearly defeated the whole world in the last war? She opposed the whole civilized world for four and a half years and would have won but for the fact that we had those efficient forces. So I say that instead of a motion of this kind we should pass a resolution of appreciation to the people of Great Britain and France for fighting for our security, for protecting our shores with those magnificent forces.

In my opinion one of the greatest errors the government has made has been to underestimate the great patriotism of the people of this country. We talk about man power. Why, Great Britain will have only 600,000 men at the end of the next three years, so I say it is very important that voluntary recruiting at once should be encouraged in all our cities and towns on a wide scale, and that proper equipment, pay and active aid should be provided. We should also have taken some action with regard to foodstuffs. I have asked the