

when there will be a truly Imperial Parliament, a Parliament for Imperial affairs. When that time comes our representatives will have a vote and we shall be able to do some Empire business. To-day we have no such vote. If England were to go to war—and the decision to do so might be made in the British House of Commons by a small majority of members, elected by comparatively few votes—we should have no say whatever in the decision. The Prime Minister of Canada, even if he had a solid Senate and a solid House of Commons behind him, would have no more influence in stopping England from going to war or in the making of peace than the wildest flathead Indian in our Prairies, or the filthiest Esquimaux in the land of the aurora borealis, or the blackest kaffir in South Africa. Some people may say that Canada does not have to go to war unless it chooses to do so, but that is not the way the thing is done. I remember a statement by Sir Robert Horne at a meeting of the Interparliamentary Union in Washington. The honourable gentleman to my left (Hon. Mr. Belcourt) and the honourable senator from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien) were present. An Irish delegate, I think Mr. Dillon, proposed that if England were at any time to engage in war the Dominions should not necessarily be at war also. Sir Robert Horne said: "That would be a very convenient thing; of course, it would mean less territory to defend. But I must say we are not asking for this eleemosynary aid. And it must be borne in mind that a belligerent power would not be prevented from attacking any Dominion simply because that Dominion happened to say that it was not at war. If the enemy decided to do so, it could try to take possession of that Dominion's territory, whether the people living there considered themselves to be at war or not."

The world never before saw such an empire as ours, which occupies one-quarter of the earth's surface and contains one-quarter of the population of the whole world. It would be a great mistake that we should be so indifferent as to let that Empire go to pieces. Now, if we in Canada were British citizens, instead of being, as we are, British subjects, we should have some influence in an Imperial Parliament. Perhaps that body would sit on the shores of the Thames, but it might sit in any other part of our world Empire. We should not be by any means an insignificant minority in this Parliament, for I suppose the representation would be based on population. I am not alone, honourable senators, in realizing the danger in independence for the different parts of the Empire. A great many

people are afraid of what would happen in the event of disunity, with one part pulling against another, but they are afraid to speak. In the same way, a great many people do not like to say what they think about the League of Nations. I feel confident, honourable senators, that there will be an Imperial Parliament, although I may not live to see it. If not, the only alternative is disruption of the Empire.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, I had intended to move the adjournment of the debate at this stage, but I understand that it would fit more conveniently into the plans of the right honourable leader of the House if I spoke now. I shall make my remarks as short as possible.

First I should like to say how fortunate it is for us that the Government has selected such able and outstanding men for appointment to this Chamber. I desire to join with honourable members who have already expressed congratulations to our new leader (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen). And may I take this opportunity of paying a tribute to our former leader, and of expressing my sorrow that ill health forced him to relinquish his leadership. I want to tell him that those of us who followed his work during the last session felt the greatest admiration for the courage with which he carried on his duties in spite of great physical and, I am afraid, mental anguish. And to our new leader I should like to say that though perhaps the five years of his absence from public life seemed long to him, they seemed still longer to his friends in Parliament. And I think that probably they seemed even longer to the people of my province than to those of any other province. I say that advisedly. A large share of the burdens of the War fell on the shoulders of the right honourable gentleman. It was often and often repeated that he was responsible and held responsible throughout the country, and especially in the Province of Quebec, for most of the sins of that hectic period. But that is not true. He has many followers in Ontario, where he now lives, and in the West, where he made his home for many years, but if he travelled throughout the Dominion to-day, I doubt that he would find anywhere else as many devoted friends as in the good old Province of Quebec.

This afternoon we have listened to a number of addresses dealing with existing conditions. It is probably true that this country, within the lifetime of any person now living, never experienced such strenuous times as those through which we have been and still are passing. But we have reason to hope that