

It accelerated the British commonwealth air training plan, it made provision for the mobilization of the man-power and the material resources of the country, it provided for national registration, which was subsequently carried out with great success, and stepped up the arrangements for munitions and supplies. I think it may safely be said that the government came out of that session in as good command of the situation as could reasonably be expected. I think also that some measure of praise is due to hon. members opposite for the part they played in bringing about that result for their criticism of the efforts of the government had its due effect. I am confident that the end of the session saw the Canadian people with confidence in the administration of the country and conviction that the government was doing its utmost to meet the needs of Canada in the discharge of its national duty.

In this session we meet under much more favourable circumstances, although the war outlook is still grim and ominous and victory is not yet in sight. I am free to confess that personally I feel a great deal happier over the war prospects than I did three months ago. This is due in large measure to two great events that have taken place. The first is that the battle of Britain, and particularly the battle of London, although not yet over, have resulted in a major nazis defeat. The world has seen great exhibitions of heroism and courage in the course of its history—the Spartans at Thermopylae; the great French at Verdun; the Canadians at Ypres. But the world has never seen a greater exhibition of fortitude than that displayed by the civilian population of London during the past two months. If there is one predominating thought in the mind of every member of this house it is one of profound admiration of the grim determination and splendid morale which the people of London have displayed in the face of the most savage and ruthless attack that has ever been made in the history of the world upon a great city. The people of Great Britain have shown that the nazis cannot successfully invade that island. They have shown that there are definite limits to the nazi might. The Germans are not invincible. One phase of the war, the possibility of an invasion of Great Britain, has to some extent been concluded.

The second great event is the formulation of a joint defence policy by the United States and Canada and the changed attitude of the people of the United States to the war and their fixed determination to give Great Britain "all aid short of war." By reason of that change of attitude in the United States that country has now become a great potential

[Mr. Thorson.]

reservoir of victory for our cause, and for their cause as well for there is a growing realization in that country of the fact that the battle for civilization cannot safely be left to this hemisphere, but must be fought in Europe, where the enemies of civilization exist. There have been strong critics of the Prime Minister in his long period of public life, but no one will deny him his fair measure of praise for the splendid part that he has played in promoting friendly relations between Canada and our great neighbour. We are deeply grateful to the United States for the assistance that it has given and for the assistance that it is still to give, and we are thankful—I think I can say this in the name of the whole Canadian people—that we have in the present Prime Minister a leader who can be relied upon to preserve and promote the strong and growing feeling of friendliness and common purpose which exists between our country and our great neighbour.

These two events of which I have spoken have given the people of Canada a strong feeling of personal security; for we have now two definite lines of defence. The first line of defence is in Great Britain, and that line has not yet been broken; indeed it is stronger to-day than it was five months ago. But we have also a second line of defence, on this hemisphere, in our alliance with the United States, with its great power of mass production, and the splendid spirit of its people, who have never yet been defeated. Both of these lines of defence must be retained by the people of Canada; for both are of incalculable value to us.

Our own war effort has made rapid progress. Our army and navy have been increased in size and efficiency, and our commonwealth air training plan has been rushed forward with surprising and gratifying speed. I need not dwell on this subject, for particulars have already been given by the Prime Minister and more particulars will be afforded by the government as this debate proceeds.

But there is one aspect of the present situation which does cause me some concern and I deem it my duty to deal with it. It is absurd to say that the sense of personal security of which I spoke a moment ago was deliberately created by the government or that the sense of security is really false. A sense of security does exist by reason of the facts that I have mentioned, and it is worth having; but there are some dangers involved in it; for I am afraid that there is not even yet a sufficient realization in this country of the supreme necessity on our part of safeguarding and maintaining our security. It is quite true that serious warnings have been given, both by Mr. Churchill in Great Britain