

Mr. SPEAKER: I must remind the right hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I shall be through in a moment, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. members: Go on; go on.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the unanimous consent of the house.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): We need unity in Canada, for the carrying out of both our internal and our external affairs, and we may thank Providence that unity exists to a greater degree than it has ever existed in any other period of our history.

I remember meeting Mr. Andre Siegfried, a prominent French writer, a few years ago. He is well known in Canada, having travelled throughout the country, and he has written books on Canada. He told me that he had noticed some divisions in the country, which he said were quite understandable because of its wide area and the differences in race and mentality. He said there was only one way of uniting Canada and that would be for Canadians to fight for a common cause, to oppose invasion if the country were ever invaded, and to share in the same struggles and the same perils.

I believe, indeed I hope, that the present struggle through which we are passing, the sacrifices in which we are all sharing, may have the effect of welding us into an enduring and stable nationhood. We should learn to be more tolerant of one another as a result of these sacrifices, and we should try to restrain those who have been and are now speaking or writing things which may create friction and may be resented by people in other sections of Canada.

Especially when it comes to creeds and religions, how can a soldier, a loyal worker, go on with his work and continue to make sacrifices if at the same time he reads things that make him feel that in his own country he is an object of suspicions and attacks?

The isolationists in the United States have had no greater mouthpieces than German agents. Hitler has boasted that he uses honest men and honest opinions in every country to serve his purposes, and those who know what has happened in Holland, Norway, Belgium and France know that this is true. The fifth column rather than armed forces defeated these countries.

I have read a book published a couple of weeks ago by a prominent French writer who now lives in Montreal, M. Andre Cheradame. The book is *Défense de l'Amérique*, the Defence of America, and I hope it will be translated and distributed throughout the dominion. What has happened in Europe dur-

[Mr. E. Lapointe.]

ing the last few years before the war, and more particularly in France, is described in this book in an illuminating manner. It will open the eyes of many. In France in the last few years, without the people knowing it, newspapers, large and small, were doing the work of the agents of Hitler. This is being done now in south America and in the United States, and it is paid for by our enemies.

I disagree with the leader of the opposition, who the other day criticized the expenditure of the money that is being devoted to the bureau of public information. We are not spending enough on public information. The dissemination of propaganda has been the greatest part of the enemy's activities. The greatest victories achieved by Hitler have come about through the disintegration of morale and opinion in the various countries in which he intended to wage war afterwards. To combat this, it is necessary to spend money. It must be fought by our own bureau of information; and, although the word is not usually popular, we must use propaganda in order to destroy the evil work of the agents of our enemies.

Let us end discussions and contests on small questions and discuss the larger ones. Let us not have our perspective obscured by smaller interests, thus being prevented from seeing the larger interests upon which the safety of the country depends.

Internal weakness brought about the fall of France; there is no doubt about it. We must try, therefore, to strengthen our hands against internal weakness and to do our best, every one of us, to keep our country strong.

I was referring to what was being said. Sometimes extracts from certain writings in my province are translated and published in the English-speaking provinces, and sometimes extracts from newspapers in the English-speaking provinces are translated and published in my own province, just to create trouble and difficulties. But the bad things that are published in the English-speaking provinces, I tell my friends in my province, do not represent the views of the English-speaking electors of Canada; and I ask my good friends from Ontario and the other provinces not to believe that certain things they may read are an expression of the views of patriotic Quebec.

Pestilential microbes and animals do not prevent nature and the world from being a work of beauty. Last week I completed thirty-seven years in this House of Commons, and at the beginning of my thirty-eighth year I pledge myself to employ the years which remain to me in fighting any diabolical conspiracy of malicious, narrow and despicable microbes, whenever and wherever they may be found, in order that they may not defile the work of beauty that is Canada.