

delivered on this occasion be inserted in the House of Commons debates and form part of the permanent records of this parliament.

In proposing this motion I do so with exceptional pride and pleasure in that it affords to us as their representatives opportunity to say to Mr Menzies in person many of the things that the people of Canada have been thinking about him and his country, and particularly about the armed forces of Australia, during these trying months through which we have all been passing. We welcome Mr. Menzies for himself. We know him well as one of the leading public men not only of the British commonwealth of nations but of the world to-day. We welcome him as an exponent of great causes, who is fearless in his public utterances, strong in his leadership and broad in his vision, and we are proud indeed to have him here as the one who, in the position of its prime minister, is representing the commonwealth of Australia wherever he goes, whether it be to the battlefields of north Africa, or southern Europe, to the United Kingdom, which he has just left, or our own dominion or upon a visit such as he is about to make to the United States. He speaks to people everywhere of the magnificent service which the Australian commonwealth, as one of the dominions of the British commonwealth of nations, is rendering the cause of freedom in the world struggle of to-day.

I do not intend to say more than a word, but I should like to say to the Prime Minister of Australia how greatly we in Canada admire the part which Australia has played from the very commencement of this war, the part which he and the members of the government of Australia, the citizens of Australia and the armed forces of Australia have taken in the conduct of the war. It will come I believe as a bit of a surprise to us all to recognize the fact that to-day the armed forces of Australia are serving actively on no less than five continents of the world. They are serving on their own continent of Australia; they have served with great gallantry on the continent of Africa; they have served with equal gallantry and bravery on the continent of Europe—and may I say it would be impossible for any of us to begin to express the admiration which we hold in our hearts for the heroism of the men representing Australia in the battles to which I have just referred. They are also actively in service on the continent of Asia; their forces are to-day, some of them, at Singapore and the Malay States. We are proud to realize that Australian forces are also brothers in arms with our own airmen here in Canada at the present time. It has been a memorable experience to Canadian citizens, particularly to members of our air force, to meet here in our own country those who have come the long distance from Australia to participate in the great commonwealth air training plan