

which in one hour could have bombed and destroyed all the public buildings in central Canada, probably including this house. Before notice could be sent out convening parliament our country could be invaded. There is not only the possibility; there is a very strong probability. The idea of calling parliament together to decide these questions of policy does not appeal to any practical person in Canada. It is impossible. In 1914 Mr. Borden's action was prompt and the country backed him up. In my opinion it will do so again when any responsible government has the courage to assert itself. This question came up nearly thirty years ago in connection with the Laurier naval bill of 1909, and at that time this house practically decided that when Britain was at war Canada was at war. A resolution was adopted by this house expressing the opinion that the Canadian people were ready and willing to make any sacrifice necessary to maintain the integrity, dignity and honour of the empire.

Again I ask: Has Canada a foreign policy, and whither is Canada drifting? If you read the message given to the house the other day by the Prime Minister you will find that Canada has no foreign policy. An enemy invading this country will not care a farthing about the Statute of Westminster, which was passed to please Ireland and South Africa. That statute speaks of consultation, co-operation and understanding. These dictators care nothing at all for that. In the Prime Minister's speech I have not read one word of encouragement to the motherland in regard to the huge burden of debt she has placed on her shoulders in order to look after the dominions, and give them protection, or in regard to what she is doing for democracy and world peace. We are told that Canada has no commitments, and that seems to be our foreign policy; in other words the pen is mightier than the sword. We are a nation only in the mythical sense. We are back to where we were over a hundred years ago, in 1812. We have no army, no navy and no air force. We are completely dependent upon the motherland for our defence on land, on sea and in the air. We saw that the other day when a bill was presented by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) in connection with Japan. Japan has been operating outside the three mile limit in violation of international law. The piracy they have been conducting through their ships which operate beyond the three mile rule is against all known international agreements. They have broken the fisheries laws, the

coastal laws and many other laws of the dominion. What do they care for peace pacts or anything of the kind?

What about that glorious French nation towards which the eyes of the civilized world were turned at the time of the great war? We remember the awful privations, the human trials and suffering and the tribulations the French people went through. But they have a policy. They are willing to make commitments. And they will make them with whom?—with Great Britain. If Canada is not content to make commitments she had better get out of the British Empire, and the quicker she gets out the better. If we will make no commitments we are outside the empire. That glorious French nation has made commitments with foreign countries. She has announced that she will defend herself and stand or fall with England. Europe must pay attention to the dictators while Canada stands aloof with a policy of isolation—that is all it is, just a policy of isolation.

The Minister of Justice was more succinct in what he said. His statement was that the foreign policy of Canada was that of keeping Canada out of war, of trying to keep Canada at peace, of acting in a peaceful manner towards all countries of the world, and to have those family relationships with other members of the commonwealth. He said it was a policy of avoiding offensive language against other countries, and to save Canada for those days which are ahead of it. Well, if that is the best policy the minister has to offer he will have a rude awakening some day if and when the enemy comes up the St. Lawrence river.

The government seems to have a different policy for all the provinces, so far as foreign affairs are concerned. If we are to read the statement on foreign affairs which has been made we must conclude that our foreign policy consists of nothing but platitudes and high sounding phrases. I feel sure people in England and in Canada hate the very mention of war. The idea of war is detested by all the people in those countries. Nevertheless preparation is necessary. You do not hear a word in favour of war in England or in Canada. But in England it is recognized that questions of defence and the liberty of civilization are at stake. England may have been slow to get started but she recognizes the mistake she made in disarmament. They are now rearming. The Norwich labour union by a vote of 2,500,000 voted in favour of rearmament. That policy has been