

*The Address—Mr. Chevrier*

integrity, unselfish, true to tradition, kindly, eloquent, a lover of freedom and a true disciple of Laurier. His speeches in this house were models; many of them will remain as masterpieces. His influence in this house and in the country at large will be felt for many years to come. He was a great Canadian who will rank among the greatest of our public men.

The speech from the throne opens with a reference to the character and scope of the present conflict. No doubt remains now that it is a world-encircling conflict. It has reached every continent, including our own. Each day it draws nearer and nearer, and one cannot foresee the end.

The first year of the war was one of disaster and disillusionment. The democratic nations relied on static defence and economic blockade. They were unprepared. The allied chiefs of staff made a serious mistake in thinking that they could sleep comfortably behind a Maginot line, because when it was flanked there followed the fall of France, and the liberty-loving nations were face to face with the grim reality that for seven years Germany had been preparing her youth for aggression and for a campaign of world domination.

The second year of the war has given us more room for hope. It began with the battle of Britain, in which those daring men of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force saved that fortress of civilization—yes, and civilization itself. Our confidence grew with the victories over the Italians, who at the outbreak of the war had an African empire and who have now lost every vestige of it. Our hopes were shaken by the German successes in Yugoslavia, in Greece, in Crete and in Africa. Again they were strengthened by the passage of the lease-lend bill, which meant the mobilization on our side of the economic power of the United States. Finally, the fateful decision of the nazis, for whatever reason it was made, to attack Russia, has brought us, I believe, the most comforting news of this war. The campaign has now lasted for seven months. At the outset it appeared to be a complete nazi victory; it has now been turned into a humiliating defeat for the Germans, who are in retreat from Leningrad to the Crimea.

The third year of the war saw the British launch a fresh attack in Libya which from the outset met with success all along the line. It brought about the delivery of Tobruk and of Bardia. Many Canadians took part in the air operations in Libya and covered themselves with glory. Some 20,000 motor vehicles of Canadian manufacture, including tanks and universal carriers, stood the test in that cam-

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paign. Our hopes have been momentarily shaken in Libya by a counter-offensive, the details of which are yet difficult to appraise.

December saw the entry of Japan into the war, with the treachery and frenzy for which they are known; while their diplomats were negotiating at Washington they made the attack on Pearl Harbour. One cannot refer to the war in the Pacific without having a word to say concerning Hong Kong. For seventeen days Canadian troops held the enemy at bay against extreme odds. In the regiments from Canada were a number of young men from the constituency which I represent. Their fate is not yet known, but I pray they have not been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice.

The war in the Pacific, and particularly the precarious position in which Australia finds herself to-day, should remind us that if it is important and essential to maintain a Canadian army overseas, it is equally important and essential to protect our own shores from attack.

At this stage I should like to say a word with reference to Canada's part and contribution in this life-and-death struggle. Canada has been fighting on two fronts, the military and the economic. The military front is made up of the fighting armies, the air squadrons and the ships of the navy. The economic front is made up of the factory, the farm and finance. Canada, as we have been told, already maintains a Canadian army overseas, composed of approximately 130,000 men. The Canadian corps comprises three divisions, together with the fifth armoured division, to which have been attached an army tank brigade, corps troops and army troops. The speech from the throne refers to an expansion of the Canadian establishment overseas. The Prime Minister in his speech yesterday clarified that by saying that during 1942 two army corps will be established in Great Britain, composed first of three infantry divisions, and two army-tank brigades, and two armoured divisions. In Canada there are the fourth and sixth divisions. The sixth division consists of three brigade groups to which are attached corps and army troops, and there are also coastal defences. Canada maintains troops in Newfoundland and the West Indies; and the grand total of the Canadian reserve and active armies is approximately 450,000 men.

In the air force there are 100,000 men, with a large number on the waiting list. Soon there will be in Great Britain some twenty-eight squadrons, and twenty-five squadrons are said to be equal to one army division. Thus far there have been lost, in the air force, some 1,200 men. The greatest contribution of the