

The division also reflects our troubled times. McGill university has given hospitality to the international labour organization. I feel that hon. members, and indeed all Canadians, will share our satisfaction that we have been privileged to welcome this great institution. All of us hope that the time may not be far distant when in a wider field it can resume its work for the good of humanity. That will come when the world has been freed from the cancerous growth of Hitlerism, sprawling over Europe, causing more suffering than has ever been caused before.

I feel I correctly interpret the interests and views of St. Lawrence-St. George when I say that we seek no local interest, we want no personal advantage, we are not interested in partisan politics. Every true Canadian feels the same to-day. We seek the welfare of Canada and of every part of it. We are as much concerned in the prosperity of the wheat farmer on the plains and of the fisherman on our coasts as in that of our own workers. We join with all others in seeking the defence and security of our own country. This means that to-day we should do everything in our power to aid Britain in her fight on our front line. The courage and fortitude displayed by her men and women have won the admiration of the world.

The greatest things are of the spirit. You cannot see or touch or hear them. In fact you can hardly describe or express them. They are things which take place in the minds and souls of people. In all recorded history there are few greater examples of this than the spirit which has arisen among the people of Great Britain in recent months. It is the spirit of Britain, revealed anew in the miracle of Dunkirk, and reaffirmed each day by the ordinary citizen's attitude to the worst the enemy can do. Men will talk of this as long as there is history, long after everyone has forgotten gains or losses of territory and power.

In Canada we admire the spirit that has gripped the people of Britain. We give thanks that it has stopped the onward rush toward us of the evil forces loosed in Europe.

Next to Britain, Canada is the strongest power facing the enemy to-day. The speech from the throne is a reminder to parliament and the country of just how huge our national assignment is. The government is leading the country in a stupendous effort. We know much of what has been done and what is under way. We are waiting to hear more from the government as the session proceeds. We know of the immense expansion of our forces. To the three services, over 200,000 Canadians have streamed from the farms

[Mr. Claxton.]

and mines, the factories and offices, the universities and the professions to answer the call that they heard in their own hearts. They are as fine men as the world has ever seen. Their number has doubled since this parliament met six months ago. More than two divisions are in England in the front line. From all sides we hear that they are fit and trained, ready to maintain the high traditions of the Canadian corps.

At sea we now have twelve destroyers and more than 100 other vessels taking a major part in convoying the stream of supplies and food we are steadily sending across the seas. Every one of us is proud of what the Canadian navy has done in its far-flung operations. Not long ago the *Prince Robert* captured a German vessel in the Pacific and took it as a prize to Esquimalt.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): An armed merchantman.

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes. But there is unfortunately the dark side. We learned with sadness of the loss of the *Margaree* with its gallant commanding officer and so many of its brave officers and men. To their mothers and wives no words can express our sympathy. We can share their pride; we cannot share their sorrow. These men are a noble example to us all. They gave their lives in the service of our country.

We hear of the immense progress being made in the air training plan, which the new Secretary of State for the Dominions, Lord Cranborne, said a few days ago "is months ahead of schedule." The country is beginning to appreciate its magnitude, its complexity and its importance. It may be a vital factor in victory. At Winnipeg, Toronto, London, Ottawa, Montreal, to my knowledge, and I dare say at every other Canadian city, the roaring horns of the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power) insistently remind us that his boys are at work from early dawn to starry eve, nights, Sundays and holidays as well. We need have no fear about the quality of our fliers. The record of the Royal Canadian Air Force abroad has already shown that they can equal the record of Canadian airmen in the last war. Nothing better can be said than that.

We know, too, of the progress in the production of war materials and of the new establishments under construction. It is estimated that these will produce munitions having in annual value the colossal sum of \$800,000,000. Our workers, counted now by the hundreds of thousands, form a great working party whose contributions are as vital to the fighting forces of Canada as those of the men in uniform. These workers have