

*Address of Right Hon. Mr. Attlee*

our own harbours. Thus the men of Dieppe showed the way to North Africa, to Sicily, to Italy and to Normandy.

When the time came for the Canadian armed forces to cross the seas, in every theatre of war they more than sustained the high reputation which they had won in the first world war on the fields of France and Flanders. I recall how they were the spearhead of the attack on Sicily and how they fought their way north in 1944 and early 1945 along the Adriatic and across the Appenines. It was my privilege then to visit them in the front line. No less splendid were their feats in the invasion of Europe. Some of the hardest tasks were given to them: the clearing of the Channel ports, of the Dutch coast, and the opening of the port of Antwerp. And since the defeat of Germany, Canadian troops have been playing their part in the vital task of disarming the Germans and occupying their country. This task and similar tasks in Japan will make great demands on the resources of the commonwealth and of the allies, but it is one of the tasks which must be done fully and well if we are not to throw away the rewards of victory.

The whole world knows the achievements of the Royal Canadian Air Force, whose units played a distinguished part in every phase of our warfare, in every command of the United Kingdom, and in every overseas theatre. They were second to none in their gallantry and in their skill. Perhaps their biggest single achievement was the provision of an entire group, the famous No. 6 Group of Bomber Command. Let us remember that behind the whole air effort of the British commonwealth lay that great empire air training scheme under which roughly one-third of the British, dominion and allied air crews were trained in this country. Perhaps it is not so generally known that the Dominion of Canada played a major part in the development of radar, and provided the R.A.F. with its main source of highly skilled mechanics and technicians. Finally, let me say that one of the most notable achievements of the war was the development from small beginnings of a great Canadian navy. In all the strain of the long-continued battle of the Atlantic, Canadians took their full share with their British and American comrades.

Besides all this, just as in the old country, the workers in the fields, the factories and the shipyards, the scientists, the technicians and research worker, are entitled to a full share of credit for the successful outcome of the war. I should like here to refer particularly to the vast and generous financial contribution of Canada, to the food supply sent across the Atlantic, and to the whole

system of mutual aid. Canada has had not only firm leadership of her fighting forces, by sea, on land and in the air, but also at home by a far-seeing and wise parliament and government, who understood just what was needed for the common effort. Everyone who realizes fully what Canada did throughout the war must acknowledge that there was a major contribution to the common cause.

You now, like ourselves, are facing the problems of peace. I count it a happy event that on the occasion of the first visit which I have made overseas since the end of the Potsdam conference, I should have had the comradeship of your Prime Minister in visiting our great friend and ally, the United States of America. It seems to me to be a good augury for the future in which the problems of peace will need that same cooperation which brought us to final and complete victory.

I remember very well when I was over here in 1941, discussing with members of your cabinet the problems of mobilizing manpower and woman-power in both our countries for total war. We now are both engaged in the equally difficult task of demobilization and of the turning from war to peace of our whole economic machine. I have no doubt that your difficulties are very present to your minds, but it might not be out of place for me to tell you something of ours. I suppose that in no country engaged in the war was a greater degree of austerity imposed upon the people than in the United Kingdom. I need not tell you that our food situation is still very difficult and that our rations are on a scale only barely sufficient to maintain health. Coal too is in short supply. But this is not all. During the war we have been unable to replenish our ordinary stores of domestic requirements—sheets, blankets, curtains, pots, pans and crockery. We have had, as it were, in every phase of our life, to make do and mend, with the inevitable consequence that we find ourselves to-day faced with every kind of shortage. If you go round our shops you will find that many of the ordinary wants of the housewife are simply not there. We are still rationed very tightly for clothing and shoes. The men and women who come out of the fighting services and want to marry and set up a home will find the greatest difficulty in furnishing it; for example, we are endeavouring to provide utility furniture, but it takes a long time to get the industrial machine under way. And let me add that those who want to marry and settle down have an anxiety even more pressing than that of how to furnish a home—that of finding a home to live in. It is perhaps not generally

[Mr. Attlee.]