

Canada and the United States can walk down the road hand in hand. When this terrible struggle is over, these two countries will show to the world that, having lived beside each other in amity for the last hundred years, they, together with Great Britain—the three great democracies—intend to see to it that democratic institutions shall not perish, but shall continue in renewed vigour.

My right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) was somewhat worried over the few men we have sent overseas. Again, I say, he was right. But this is not the same kind of war as the Great War of 1914 to 1918. If I know anything about this war—I admit I know very little—it will be won in the air, in the Mediterranean and on the Atlantic ocean. The way to win this war is not to send a million or two million troops to be slaughtered on the battle-fields of Europe. The way to win is to blast—shall I say the word? No, I won't. Yes, the way to win is to blast hell out of Hitler through the air.

An Hon. SENATOR: I knew it would come.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: That is the way the war must be won. The British Navy will also help to win it by starving the people of Germany and Italy and making them realize that the British fleet rules the sea. A German raider may get out now and again, but eventually it is either sunk by our cruisers or scuttled by its own crew. The glorious traditions of the British Navy are being upheld by our Canadian boys. In the last few days we have had an instance of how our sailor lads, some from Toronto, some from the plains of Saskatchewan and other parts of the Dominion, and some from Newfoundland, conducted themselves like heroes when the Jervis Bay, an eighteen-year-old armoured merchant cruiser, went down fighting a German pocket battleship. She was sunk, but she saved the convoy. That is the heroic type of men fighting for us. Let us keep our pecker up and save our criticism until after we have won the war. Let us keep our powder dry, and we shall come out triumphant, with the British flag, the grand old Union Jack, still flying, ashore and afloat, as it has flown for centuries and centuries.

We are grateful for the help we are getting from the United States. But, honourable senators, the United States is not giving this for our benefit alone. Whatever help it may give, so far as the defence of this continent is concerned, will be given because Canada is the back door to the United States, and the United States dare not allow the forces of a foreign power to come into Canada.

Hon. Mr. DUFF.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The front door.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Yes; better still, the verandah door. So I say we can accept, with full confidence and with no sacrifice of our rights on this continent, anything the United States now or in the future may want to do for us and the British Empire.

There is another matter I should like to deal with, for it concerns not only our war effort, but also what may come after peace is declared. I said a few moments ago that the United States and Great Britain and Canada have decided to establish naval and air bases both in Canada and in Newfoundland. I need not describe to honourable members the situation of that island and its importance from the standpoint of defence. A few days ago I noticed this dispatch in the newspapers:

Early action on the sweeping recommendations of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations is urged by Prime Minister Mackenzie King in a call sent out for a Dominion-provincial conference in January to consider implementation of these recommendations.

Mr. King declares steps are necessary to enable Canada to achieve maximum effort in the war.

Now, I think there is not a man or woman in Canada who does not realize that Great Britain is carrying a very heavy burden. In addition to having to look after her own home affairs, she has her colonies and dependencies scattered all over the world. One of these is the island of Newfoundland. We are not doing any more than we should do to help Great Britain win this war, and after reading the statement of the Prime Minister that he will call a conference of the provinces to discuss matters related to the war and the period after the war, I decided that when I came here this afternoon I would make a suggestion to the Government with a view to lightening the burden of the Mother Country. This is not the first time the subject I am about to mention has been discussed. Forty or fifty years ago it was talked about, but nothing was done. In view of Newfoundland's position in the gulf of St. Lawrence and its proximity to Canada, the distance from Sydney to Cape Ray being only seventy-five miles, and from Labrador across the straits of Belle Isle only ten miles, it seems to me that we might do something to aid Great Britain in carrying the burden of responsibility in connection with that island. I think it would be good business for Canada, in the discussion that is to take place with the provinces, to consider the idea of bringing Newfoundland into Confederation and making her the tenth province in this great Dominion.