

picturing the difficulties which any party has to dodge or circumvent in deciding upon a policy of defence or aggression, or upon any course which might lead us into war. When I look back upon the views expressed by our public men in the period since the last war ended, I know that it has been fear not so much of the enemy as of the people of Canada which has prevented them from committing themselves to any definite plan. For any country which has a party government and democratic institutions there is only one course to take in a matter of this kind, and that is to sink party differences and have all parties committed to one defence policy. I think it is the imperative duty of the Liberals and the Conservatives in this country to have their leaders sit down privately and come to an understanding as to what it is Canada is willing to do, what it is that both parties will endorse, so that when a crisis comes neither party can attack the one that is in power and make party capital out of anything it has done for defence. On this great issue the leader of the Opposition, whatever his party may be, should be able to say, as Mr. Bennett said yesterday in connection with another matter, "I would have done the same thing had I been in office." If we had such a common policy we could commit the country to it. But so long as we keep our ears to the ground and are wondering what effect a certain policy will have upon party fortunes, we shall never get anywhere.

A change has come over the mind of man everywhere. In the years since the war this country and the whole world have resounded with speeches demanding peace and disarmament. We know that the Conservatives in England, in common with all the other parties there, were always opposed to keeping up the army; there was always talk and more talk against preparations for defence; the Labour party in that country never tired of advocating disarmament and the continuance of a state of unpreparedness. There was a similar sentiment in the United States, and in this country we have heard it expressed on all hands, by Conservatives and Liberals alike. What is it that has changed the mind of the whole world? Every party in England is now united on a defence program, and the country is spending untold millions for defence. What is it that has made the United States arm itself as Britain never would have thought of arming? What is it that has changed us all from peaceful to warlike people? What is it that has made Mr. Baldwin say that the Rhine is the frontier of our Empire? What are the United States afraid

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUTON.

of? Something has changed. It seems to me that the whole of mankind has oriented itself, and that not in the last twenty years, but in the last two years.

My own opinion is that there will not be war for years. Certainly there will not be war unless the world goes mad. But the world went mad before, and it may go mad again. I recollect very well how the English people and Parliament acted, how they hesitated and hesitated before they would commit themselves to any policy when Germany started the last war. It has been said again and again, by thousands and ten of thousands of people, that had the English Government of the day taken a firm stand there would have been no war. At any rate I hope with all my heart that to-day war is very remote. The British people have a different outlook now from what they had before. And so have the people of nearly every other nation, for something has taken possession of the minds of men all over the world. We in this country should not sit idle in these circumstances; we must know what we are to do. I agree with every syllable that my right honourable leader (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) has uttered.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Honourable members, I beg to move, seconded by the honourable senator from Lauzon (Hon. Mr. Paquet), that the debate be adjourned.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I thought we should be sitting this evening, and if we are my honourable friend could speak then. Between now and six o'clock perhaps some other honourable member would like to speak.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I am not prepared to go on to-night.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Does any other honourable member desire to speak now? If not, I will agree to my honourable friend's motion.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Haig, the debate was adjourned until to-morrow.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 20, 1937.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.