

destroys, in our population, the will to economize, and paralyses all enthusiasm for co-operation;

We believe in the war effort, provided it becomes possible for the farmer to accelerate, increase and double his production by keeping or getting the necessary help and also by obtaining the tools of which certain government orders have deprived him;

We believe in the war effort, through co-operation that is not dampened by racial or religious prejudice or imbued with extreme imperialism, or narrow Canadianism or provincialism; but that remains essentially Canadian and inspired by the love of country and the maintenance of Canadian liberties and traditions. If it be true that this type of patriotism does not preclude our humanitarian feelings from responding to the allied nations' appeal, our answer must not, however, go to extremes, but rather remain within the bounds of common sense.

Mr. Speaker, after three years of war, our debt, which in 1939 amounted to \$3,000,000,000 has reached the staggering total of \$8,000,000,000, or \$700 per capita. This means that four years of war will have almost trebled the debt which Canada had after 73 years of existence as a confederation. Therefore, I understand how Mr. T. V. Soong, China's foreign minister, could state on November 3rd, 1942, that in this war Canada had, in proportion to her population achieved more than any other country in the world. During the last three years Canada has put all her resources in the prosecution of the war. We had no army in 1939. In 1943, we have overseas 200,000 men ready to serve anywhere as volunteers and in this country over 225,000 soldiers for the defence of Canada as recruits. In 1939, what did our navy amount to? We had fifteen ships, mostly of small tonnage, and a total number of 1,774 enlisted sailors. In 1943, we have 500 warships or corvettes, sailing the seven seas, with a strength of over 50,000 men. We had no air force in 1939; in 1943, we have on active service 150,000 men most of whom are gaining fame over occupied Europe. The male population of Canada, that is men from 19 to 45 years old, numbering 2,215,800, has supplied so far nearly 800,000 men, volunteers or recruits, or almost one third. In proportion to her population, Canada is now taxed more heavily than Great Britain or the United States. Can we do better? Can we accomplish more than that? Can we go farther? The champions of imperialism continue to proclaim that this is not enough.

[Mr. Lionel Bertrand.]

Mr. Speaker, I have no imperialistic leanings, and I condemn those who, while living in this country, have more love for the empire than for Canada. I am not anti-British, because I have never been ashamed of being a citizen of the Empire. A descendant of people who settled here two hundred years ago, I have the right and the duty of being above all a citizen of Canada. I said Canada, Mr. Speaker, not Quebec. I love my province, I would defend her against any one, but the sincere love I have for her imparts to my patriotism a truly national character. I also consider as extravagant the gift of \$1,000,000,000 made last year to Great Britain, and the loans we have made to her, in view of the fact that at that very time Great Britain was loaning money with interest to foreign countries. I support the speech from the throne for the legislation as a whole which it forecasts, but I reserve the right to take such decision as I consider best when bills providing for such gifts and for the creation of the board which alone will see to their allotment, come up for discussion in this house. I have been at variance with the government in the past, and I shall still be whenever I feel it my duty. I was elected to uphold in this parliament the principles which my constituents have commissioned me to defend in 1940. I am here for that sole purpose. I shall remain on this side of the house, because freedom of speech prevails here, and I regret that some Liberals have seen fit to found new parties when they could exercise that right to voice all their views.

The amendment moved by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) will not have my support. That amendment takes the government to task for having "failed to provide for the effective use of Canada's man- and woman-power". In other words, we should have mobilized all our man-power and poured it overseas so as to obey the old imperialistic slogan "help the empire". I have already said in this house that Canada had no orders to take from any one as regards the conduct of her own affairs. I cannot admit that the empire has a right to ask us everything, to demand everything from us and that we should always be bound to grant all its requests.

Again, we are in no way bound to accept the decisions taken by the British general staff when we have no voice in the council. If Canada is in this war of its free will, as we are often told, it should not be the servant of anyone, but the equal of the other nations that battle to crush Hitler.

Has any other doctrine than that of out-and-out imperialism ever been preached by