

I believe that the little man referred to and immortalized by Strube in England is the personification of the people of the mother country. Those people represent the civilization and the progress of the world. That country is almost in ruins to-day. They gave up everything for an ideal. What was that ideal? The right to live a free life in the world. That is what we are fighting for. Mr. Winant, the able United States ambassador in London, said at a banquet the other day that there is a great divergence of opinion in the United States about our colonial empire. The little man in England is going to be brave enough to destroy Hitler and the axis powers, and after the war the little man whom I described will be able to look after the future of the world without all this planning, which is only an alias for socialism, and to handle reconstruction. I believe in what Lord Bennett said the other day in London when he was addressing the Empire Service League. He said:

Don't apologize for our colonial history or our administration, than which there is nothing finer in the records of mankind.

Don't apologize for India. There we have given millions of people centuries of peace in place of chaos and blood-letting.

Don't be ashamed to have it said you are an imperialist. An imperialist is a man who bears proudly the responsibilities of his race and breed.

I am surprised that through the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, a section of the press and come community clubs in this country, speakers are being heard who, through ignorance or for some other reason, do not give the public the truth about the colonial empire of Britain and its splendid administration.

Let me mention two statements which have been made and which are very far from the truth. One is that Britain has taken more wealth out of the colonies than it ever gave to them. That is not correct. The mother country never got one pound in the exchequer out of its colonial empire. On the other hand she has spent millions of pounds on its development, and she has never taxed the colonial empire one pound for all that development work. She gave the colonial empire peace for over one hundred years and poured wealth into the colonial empire in the form of grants of every kind, never asking for one cent in return.

The other statement that was made was that the mother country had prevented other countries from obtaining raw materials from the colonial empire. That is also untrue and false. There has never been an embargo put upon the export of raw materials from the

[Mr. Church.]

colonial empire. At a time when Britain had millions of unemployed at home she gave the colonial empire a preference in her market, and all the countries of that colonial empire were free to trade as best they could, and dealt far more with foreign countries than with Great Britain. We in Canada should not forget what the mother country herself has done. In any reconstruction or planning that may be done, let us not forget the mother country which saved our shores. I believe in reasonable tariffs; I believe they will be in existence as long as time lasts. We talk about a united states of Europe. The people of twenty-six countries of Europe have been driven out of their homes and look to Britain to restore them. Patriotism is the cement that holds nations together, and these people who have been driven out of their homes will want to go back to their own countries and rebuild them. The duty of Canada and the mother country, and we hope of the United States too, will be to use the principles of the lend-lease system to help them to do it. That same principle was followed by the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) in the agreement he made in respect to grain, and there have been other illustrations of the same principle. We must help to restore these poor nations in Europe which have suffered such tyranny from our dastardly foe.

There is very little in the speech from the throne for the toilers and workers of this country—nothing but platitudes, inertia, and evasions from start to finish. I think of the experience of the soldiers who returned from the last war. It had been said that they would come back to a country which we would make fit for heroes to live in, a war to end war, and all that kind of thing. But twenty-one and twenty-two years after the last war some of our soldiers were still trying to get a pension and were going through the process of examinations and reexaminations, appeals and all that kind of thing, only to get in the end perhaps one or two or three dollars a week. I also know what happened in connection with the cost-of-living bonus for our soldiers, and therefore I have very little faith in these platitudes, promises and plans, because history always repeats itself.

I see no mention whatever in the speech from the throne of a national coal supply. I wish the government would come down out of the clouds and face realities, such as coal. In the session of 1922-23 I brought in a resolution for a national coal supply to make ourselves independent of other countries for coal.