

for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, if I may be permitted to dispense with the reading of the formal resolution which I have in my hand, I should like to say that in view of the preference expressed yesterday by my right honourable friend opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) that this debate should proceed on the basis of a speech delivered elsewhere than in this Chamber, I have no desire to encumber Hansard with the mite that I had to offer on Friday. Suffice it to say that I wish to endorse the policy of the Government as stated in the Speech from the Throne. Canada, in common with the United Kingdom and other members of the British Commonwealth, finds herself in a state of war. This Dominion must and will prosecute her part in that war to the utmost of her ability.

Hon. JULES-EDOUARD PREVOST (Translation): Honourable senators, at a moment when the representatives of Canada are assembled to adopt necessary measures of safety, thousands of men, of Christians for the most part, are killing, slaughtering one another in Europe. Some of the combatants believe it their duty to obey leaders who, in their insatiable ambition, aim to conquer the peoples and the countries they covet, in defiance of treaties, of given promises and the sacrosanct rights of property. The other side is fighting and dying to remain faithful to pledges, to uphold treaties, to defend right, justice, freedom of individuals and peoples against the scourge of brute force.

It used to be said that war was hateful to mothers; it is now hateful to all. Europe learned it of old: America is learning her bitter lesson.

Imperialistic ambition, exaggerated nationalism, or, if you will, racism, Nazi-ism, and Fascism, were created, exploited and exalted for the purpose of devouring Europe. The pride of dictators unleashed these passions among their peoples. The democratic and pacific countries are troubled, and, against their will, have taken to the paths of war, to defend outraged right, to protect their territory, their prestige, and above all, their freedom.

In their love of peace, the democracies made concession after concession. Unfortunately, these concessions only served to whet the appetite of a dictator greedy for domination and hegemony.

But concession does not mean surrender. After exhausting all peaceful means, Great Britain and France are now rising up before the invader, who, for too long already, has

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dared to impose his will by force, and to-day is despoiling Poland in order to enslave her. And once more war is convulsing Europe.

In our days, when the least event re-echoes throughout the world, the calamitous acts of the modern Attila who rules Germany to-day will affect even the countries farthest from the theatre of war. In our times, a European war like the one now raging is truly universal. That is obvious from the point of view of economic life, which is disrupted in all parts of the world, but also and especially from the point of view of the principles at stake, which are dear to the hearts of all peoples who do not regard freedom, justice, human brotherhood, and peace as vain words.

Canada is a British country, autonomous and free, and means to remain so. We cannot look disinterestedly on the gigantic conflict in which Great Britain and France are engaged in defending an eminently just cause, the triumph of which is vital to us.

In these grave and perilous circumstances, the Canadian Government stand calm, firm and dignified, devoted to the interests of the nation. The Speech from the Throne which opened this special session asks Canadians to unite in a national effort to secure the protection of our country, and to collaborate with Great Britain in the conflict she is waging against the enemy of principles which are the basis of our liberties.

The national effort required of us by the Government ensues from our duty to safeguard our rights which might suffer and be destroyed in a war where brute strength seeks to master the universe.

Our first duty as a nation is to defend our homes, our soil, our freedom. It is the main object of the Speech from the Throne read on Thursday by His Excellency the Governor General. Let us admit that the Government, at the opening of the last session, were quite justified in saying:

In this situation, the Government have considered that the uncertainties of the future, and the conditions of modern warfare, make it imperative that Canada's defences be materially strengthened.

Then, as well as to-day, Canada was only doing her duty. But from the viewpoint of our military contribution, the defence of Canada is our only obligation. Does it follow that Canada should and can refuse her help and her co-operation to Great Britain and her Allies in the hour when a human vulture seeks to extend his hegemony to those nations to whom we are not bound, but with whom we are united?