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THE CANADIAN WAR EFFORT

Address by

The Hon. T. A. CRERAR, M.P.

*(Minister of Mines and Natural Resources of the
Dominion of Canada)*

at a Private Meeting of the Study Committees
of the Empire Parliamentary Association, held
in the Rooms of the Association, Westminster
Hall, on 6th December, 1939.

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Macmillan,
G.C.V.O.**

(Minister of Information)

IN THE CHAIR

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In the circumstances of the war, it has been considered necessary, in consultation with Mr. Crerar, to eliminate certain passages from his Address and from his replies to Questions. It is regretted that some interesting information will thus not become available to those members of the Empire Parliamentary Association who were unable to attend the meeting, but it was felt to be undesirable to print, even for private circulation, some passages of a particularly confidential character.

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A private meeting of the Study Committees of the Empire Parliamentary Association was held in the Rooms of the Association, Westminster Hall, on 6th December, 1939, when the Rt. Hon. Lord Macmillan, G.C.V.O. (Minister of Information) presided, and the Hon. T. A. Crerar, M.P. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources of the Dominion of Canada) delivered an Address upon "The Canadian War Effort".

The Chairman, Rt. Hon. Lord Macmillan, G.C.V.O. (*Minister of Information*): Gentlemen: Before we begin may I intimate that apologies for absence have been received from Mr. Anthony Eden, Dr. Burgin, Mr. Lloyd George, and some others.

We are singularly fortunate this morning in having persuaded Mr. Crerar to spare an hour from his thronging duties to address us. We all know how very busy he has

been since he came over to help us with the many problems with which we are faced to-day. He is going to speak to us about Canada's effort in the war, and surely there is none better qualified to instruct us in that matter. He has had unusual political experience in Canada, having been Minister of Agriculture, then Minister of Railways and Canals, and he now holds the position of Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. He has covered what you might call the whole economic field of Canada—transport, agriculture, and mines and minerals, and he will therefore, I am sure, be able to tell us with special authority of the effort of Canada in the war from the economic side. It is by no means the only contribution that Canada is making to the war, but it is a very important one.

I was much interested myself when I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Crerar in Canada in learning from him and from his most interesting official reports of the great mineral developments in Canada. Canada is now, if I remember rightly, the second gold-producing country in the world. My own knowledge of Canada, I think I may say, is both deep and extensive, because I once had the experience of going a mile down the Hollinger mine, one of the great gold mines of Canada, and I also traversed Canada from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia when I had the honour of investigating the banking and currency system of Canada some years ago for Mr. Bennett. But Canada is an inexhaustible subject and we are happy to be here this morning to add to our knowledge of it.

To-day the Minister of Information is in the chair not to impart information but to receive information. My task is, therefore, best performed, as indeed the task of every chairman is best performed, by being silent and receptive. I propose accordingly to ask you, Mr. Crerar, to be good enough to address us upon the topic on which we are so anxious to hear your views. You may take it that this is an entirely informal and private meeting and that what is said here is for the personal use of ourselves and of those members of the Association to whom the account of the proceedings may be subsequently circulated.

Hon. T. A. Crerar, M.P. (*Minister of Mines and Natural Resources of the Dominion of Canada*): Lord Macmillan and Gentlemen: It is very encouraging to be told at the outset of

one's remarks that the lid is off and one can talk freely. Really I should apologize for being here at all. One remark that Lord Macmillan made I very cordially agree with, and that is that I have had rather a strenuous time since I arrived in London. With regard to the other kind things he has said about myself, I must really dissent from some of them.

I do propose, however, to endeavour to give you a picture of the situation in Canada as it is, or as it was when I left there some six weeks ago.

Canada and the War : attitude of the United States.

I recall that in 1937, following the Imperial Conference, Sir Howard inveigled me into addressing a group of the Empire Parliamentary Association and at that time, if my memory serves me correctly, I did say that in the event of another war there might be considerable difference of opinion in Canada as to the part she should play. Well, I am in the position of having in some degree, in a good American phrase, to eat my own words. Canada occupies a rather important position in this trouble from its proximity to the United States.

War to-day is a tremendously expansive affair as well as being expensive. When we try to clear our thoughts about the matter, we find that the old traditional background that the waging of war was largely a matter of contests between armies in the field no longer holds true, and to-day it is a contest between nations where every resource moral, spiritual, physical and financial, is mobilized for the effort. To-day it has become a tremendously vast affair.

When I read the other day of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement in the House of Commons as to what the war meant in terms of financial expenditure, it was staggering. When I reflect that we in Canada propose to go to the limit financially, and that we may be able to raise 450 or 500 million dollars for war efforts of various kinds in the next twelve months, it looks rather puny alongside your effort here, but yet it is probably the limit of our resources in that period of time.

The position of the United States in one respect has made it more difficult. May I say a word or two about that country?

I think without question their sympathies are overwhelmingly with the Western Democracies in this struggle;

but there is a feeling very widely held and shared among people of the United States that they should avoid being drawn into wars in Europe, and in order to carry that out they have imposed upon themselves rather severe self-denying ordinances. They will not loan to belligerents, and their ships cannot enter or carry goods or passengers from the United States into certain defined belligerent zones. If the Allies have to draw from the great storehouse of the United States materials of one kind and another—and they are at present doing so—cash has to be paid for those materials, and provision has to be made to get the materials across to where they are needed.

It sounds perhaps a little ludicrous, but a Canadian newspaper I received a few days ago carried a description of how the aeroplanes are brought to Canada which are manufactured in American manufacturing plants. Many of these plants are located in the Western States, as you know, several of them being in California. When the time comes for their delivery to the Allies the aeroplanes are flown to an airport on the American side of the international boundary between the United States and the Province of Alberta. They are actually flown to within a few feet of the international line, where a sort of road has been made, and those on the Canadian side throw a rope across the boundary line which those on the American side hitch to the aeroplane and the machine is then pulled across into Canadian territory and immediately becomes available for our effort in the war.

The attitude of the United States has, of course, raised some very interesting questions for your Chancellor of the Exchequer because the problem of dollar exchange is a rather difficult problem in operations so vast as those that are now under way and in contemplation. All I can say is that so far as we are concerned in Canada we wish to do everything we can to assist in that respect.

If I were asked the question as to how united the Canadian people are in this struggle, I would reply, as I have stated on various occasions since I arrived in London, that the sense of unity among the Canadian people in this struggle exists to a much greater degree than it did even in 1914. There are probably two reasons for this. The first is the natural feeling of a very large number of Canadians to stand by the Mother Country. May I say in passing, and this should be borne in

mind when we consider that aspect of it, that while we have in Canada still a considerable margin of our population which can trace their ancestry back to these Islands, we have nevertheless a very large percentage of our population who have not the sentimental attachment to the British Isles that I and others like me have. Our French-Canadian population numbers probably $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and while they have a regard for French culture, and I may say a fairly extensive appreciation and understanding of it, they have no ties that bind them to France in the way that many of our English-speaking Canadians feel bound to these Islands. I doubt if there is one French-Canadian family in a thousand that can trace a relative in all France. Consequently—and rightly, they rather pride themselves on the fact—they consider themselves the real Canadians. Then we have in addition, as I think I stated in the Address I gave here in 1937, very considerable elements of other nationalities in our population. Notwithstanding this, at any rate so far, we are united.

Firstly, therefore, there is the sentimental tie, and secondly—and I think this is very important—there is a widespread understanding in Canada of the issues that are involved in this struggle. It may sound rather strange that we in Canada should attach the importance to that aspect of the struggle that we do. It may be due to the fact that we are a small nation with very important resources. If the principles of brute force in international affairs should triumph in Europe, then we are bound sooner or later to feel the effect of it in Canada. We stand for individual freedom. It is perhaps almost unnecessary to mention that, for we are a pioneering country yet, and we have the resourcefulness in a very large degree that is associated with a pioneering country. We have a sense of individuality, and with that a love of freedom and liberty within the framework of ordered law. So these things pull us towards the struggle, and they appeal to the feelings of our French-Canadian friends as well. At any rate, let the motives be what they may, we are in it, and we are in it to the maximum of our power.

The Governor of the Bank of Canada recently arrived in London to discuss with the authorities here some of the problems that arise in connection with exchange, and he conveyed to Mr. Chamberlain from the Prime Minister of Canada the assurance that Canada was prepared to make the

same sacrifices in the way of curtailing imports and putting ourselves into something of a straight-jacket as you are doing here in the way of living, in order that our financial resources may be conserved to the utmost.

Canada's contribution : air training scheme.

What contribution can we make? There is the contribution in men. We have had two divisions called up—indeed more than that—for the last 2½ months, and I am at liberty to say here that we expect before many weeks are past that we shall have one full division with all its ancillary units for training on this side and in a position to take its place in the front line before any offensive starts in the Spring. We shall meanwhile be carrying on the preliminary training of a second division which we anticipate will be sent over later as the struggle develops.

Then there is the air training scheme to which we in Canada attach a great deal of importance. The air arm is a comparatively new thing in warfare, but we know enough to justify the statement that it can be under certain circumstances a very powerful and effective thing. There can be no difference of opinion that the Allies opposed to Germany in this war must aim at complete and thorough domination of the air. In that respect, our air training centres in Canada are not likely to be attacked, because it requires a very great stretch of the imagination to conceive of a German bomber dropping bombs on an airport or factory in Quebec or Ontario. Consequently, there is security in training. In addition to that, there are the open spaces for training, which is a very important point.

Since I left Ottawa the negotiations between the other Members of the Commonwealth and the Mother Country have been going on there, and I think those negotiations are now concluded and are embodied in the form of an agreement, and I am sufficiently informed on the matter to be able to say that already preparations are being made for the extension of airports. We are commencing with the use of the airports of the Trans-Canadian Airways, of which there are some eight or ten, and which are very excellently equipped. Other subsidiary airports will be developed and expanded, and I expect

by the time the Spring comes the air training scheme will be well on its way.

I think too we can make some contribution in the personnel of the air force. If I may say it here, one thing that has surprised me has been the degree of your air development in this country, and especially is that the case on the defensive side. We saw a few squadrons when we were over in France—fine clean-cut able young men, the very pick of the youth of the land I am sure, because I know that is the case in Canada. It was very impressive. I hope also within the next few days before returning home to visit a number of Canadians who are training in the north of England. I may say that so far as the air effort is concerned we shall put forth again the best that we have.

Supply of materials and foodstuffs.

When we come to material resources, Canada is in a very much better position than she was in 1914. First we have had a substantial increase in our population. Secondly we have had a very substantial increase in our manufacturing industries, and in the development of hydro-electric energy for driving the machines of the factories. Thirdly we have had a very large expansion in our mineral production, including the base metals that are essential in waging successful war. War has become a tremendously mechanized affair, and this means that large quantities of copper, zinc, nickel and many other metals are needed. In the twenty years since 1919 we have tremendously increased our output of copper, zinc, nickel, lead, and many of the minor metals. In my own Province of Manitoba, for instance, 600 miles north of Winnipeg there is a copper and zinc mine operating which is producing between 60 and 70 million pounds a year of each of those metals.

Lord Macmillan mentioned gold. Gold is a resource that may be very useful. We have increased our production of gold, at the new price of 35 dollars an ounce, from 115 million dollars in 1935 to an estimated yield for the present year—an estimate which I am confident will be reached—of 185 million dollars. If we are not second, we are at any rate third in gold production in the world. I expect this expansion will continue, and it may be that the reserves of gold we get out of the earth will be of some value if this war goes on for several years in carrying it through to a successful conclusion.

In the matter of foodstuffs it may be said we are in a position to maintain supplies. I recall that in the closing years of the last war considerable anxiety arose over the question of food, and in 1917 very strenuous efforts were put forth in Canada to stimulate and increase the production of cereals and the like. We are capable of maintaining that, and it is perhaps fortunate that we have in Canada to-day very large reserves of wheat. Perhaps in no single department of international activity has the war brought more difficulties than in the field of shipping, and it is some satisfaction at any rate to realize that in these matters of foodstuffs, base metals, timber, and the like, there are reserves available in Canada with probably the shortest haul that you can get to the main theatre of war.

Nature of the struggle ; Problems of peace.

This will, perhaps, give you a fairly adequate picture of the position in the Dominion. I am going back greatly encouraged and greatly cheered. I am not among those who think that the struggle will be a short one or an easy one. It is well always to keep in mind the worst, and then if it does not get so bad as that you have a margin to the good. Both here and in France the spirit of the people is really remarkable.

I am not saying that, Mr. Chairman, to throw out a pleasant utterance to my audience here. When I note the inconveniences that this old democracy has willingly imposed upon itself in taxation, in black-outs, and in curtailments of this and that and the other thing, it indicates a determination, which is not surprising, that these Islands are going to maintain the traditions of the past in their struggle for the maintenance of freedom and liberty in the world.

It is an interesting thing to reflect upon in these troubled days of the world's history, with all the uncertainty that lies on the Continent of Europe and elsewhere, that there is so large a portion of the world's surface that speaks the English language and that has the traditions in government, in law, in literature and everything else that comes from these Islands. Our friends, the Americans, speak the English language, and their institutions after all are modelled basically upon the institutions here. You have therefore throughout the world these great and imponderable forces working and I am convinced they are working for good.

When we come to make peace it is going to be a very difficult problem. I find myself constantly with this question mark in front of me : How can you bring peoples together who have lived for many years in an atmosphere of fear and suspicion ? In human thinking there is no influence so disintegrating and demoralizing in its effects as fear and suspicion ; and out of all this some day we have to try and build a new world. I do hope when that time comes those who may be associated with that responsibility will be men not only of great courage but of great vision.

The world is surrounded to-day with a great many difficulties. We are in the fogs of uncertainty and fear. I sometimes think of an experience I had many years ago in a little valley in northern British Columbia far remote from so-called civilization. We arrived in this valley one day in the midst of an impenetrable fog which continued for several days, and I have never had an experience when my spirits were so depressed as they were on that occasion. But one morning, when we awakened we found the fog was lifting, the mists were clearing away, and we could see the mountain peaks covered with eternal snow and the fresh sunlight of the morning casting its radiance over them, and before long the fog had disappeared and the mountains stood revealed in all their majestic beauty. To-day the world is clouded with fear and doubt, but we know that behind all the fog of fear and doubt stand the old immutable principles upon which human civilization has made its progress, and that sooner or later they are going to reappear as the mountain peaks through the mist. Then let us hope we can look forward to the maintenance, and even the improvement, of that state of society pictured by the Hebrew prophet of old—where every man can sit under his own vine and figtree enjoying the fruits of his own labour, and where none dare molest him or make him afraid.

QUESTIONS.

The Chairman : Mr. Crerar : We are indeed indebted to you for your heartening words this morning. In the beautiful metaphor which you used a moment ago I venture to detect some traces of an ancestry deriving from the bens and glens of Scotland, and the quotation from the Scriptures with which you concluded has a similar inspiration.

It is our practice at these meetings to ask some questions of the speaker, and if any of those present desire to ask Mr. Crerar any questions arising out of his Address, he will be happy to answer them.

United States' co-operation in peace-building.

Sir Percy Hurd, M.P. (*Unionist, Devizes*): May I ask one question? In the ultimate job of building a new world do you in your sanguine moments anticipate there may be any way in which the United States may take a share in that rebuilding?

Mr. Crerar: That is a very difficult question to answer at the moment. The United States have a considerable share of responsibility for the conditions that exist in the world to-day, and there are those among them who admit that. It may be that they were not ready, as one quite eminent gentleman in that country told me a few years ago, to enter the League of Nations when it was formed and to play their part. There was in the United States, following the Versailles Treaty, a very marked wave of isolationism. They had the idea, and it was pretty widely held, that they could live to themselves and let the rest of the world go by. But the depression of 1930 and succeeding years had a very profound effect upon that view, because there was no country in the world that suffered more deeply than the United States, and it still has the marks of the depression upon it. They will find that while they may sell some aeroplanes and other materials, this war will create, and indeed is already creating, great dislocation economically in the United States, and it will continue to do so. While it may be taking rather an optimistic view, yet I think you could get a more favourable response in the United States to-day to the suggestion that they should play their part in trying to build a new world than was possible perhaps 25 years ago, and I do think if they did come in they could play a very important part.

Revolutions are going on all over the world, intangible and difficult to observe, I know. It appears to me—and perhaps there is no disagreement in this room—that there is and has been for a number of years a very considerable revolution going on in this country. The same thing is going on in the United States. People are looking for something better, and perhaps they are confused and may not always be getting the

kind of leadership they might have, although let me make clear I am not among the critics of President Roosevelt that you will find in some corners of the United States. It is going on, and I have sufficient faith to believe—it may be due to that old Presbyterian upbringing that is inherent in my system—that the great majority of people are good and decent in their instincts and want to do the decent and right thing, and if they get the opportunity that will find expression. That is what I meant when I said that never in the history of the world was leadership and vision, courage and farsightedness so necessary as to-day.

Supplies of timber.

Rt. Hon. Lord Gainford: May I ask one question in connection with timber? There is going to be quite a shortage of timber in this country if the war is going to be prolonged. We have reserves for supplying our collieries in this country for possibly a year, but a great deal of timber is required in our coal mines and we have not got resources capable of meeting the demand in this country. We cannot replace timber by any other material to any great extent. Is it possible for the Canadians to help us and will the St. Lawrence or other ports be open to enable ships to transport timber from Canada to this country if our demands in this country are not met?

Mr. Crerar: With regard to the timber question I would say that it is largely a matter of shipping. We have not supplied pit props to this country, as I recall now, because you have been able to get them elsewhere, but we can supply them. The dislocation of shipping, however, has been very great. I was told the other day that we have very large quantities of sawn timber in the Pacific Coast sawmills, and you need a great deal of that timber very badly here, but it is a case of sending a ship through the Panama Canal and up the west coast to get it and bring it back, and the difficulty is to get the ship to do it. If your shipping difficulties clear up, as I think they certainly will do to a considerable extent, then I do not think there will be any difficulty in getting these materials from Canada. As a matter of fact I believe that recently steps were taken here for sending a few representatives to the Maritime Provinces to see what could be done in the way of securing pit props from that area.

Relations with Japan : future possibilities.

Captain W. F. Strickland, M.P. (*Unionist, Coventry*) : I should like to ask one question which I think is exercising the minds of many people in this country. Mr. Crerar was speaking of the mists that surround us at present, and I think one of the most intangible things is to what extent this war might spread by gathering into it other people in its momentum.

The question I would like to ask and have a reply to if it is within the competence of our speaker to-day is as to the position of Japan with regard to Canada. Is there a better feeling between the Canadians and the Japanese? Has it improved? If such a regrettable thing should happen as that Japan should be involved in the war, does our speaker think that Canada would be able to hold that side of the world in safety against a Great Power like Japan?

Mr. Crerar : That is a bit of a poser. First as to the relations between Japan and Canada, they have been friendly. We have had, however, on the Pacific coast a quite pronounced anti-Japanese feeling arising from the fact that there are between 30,000 and 35,000 Japanese in that part of British Columbia. They get into small businesses in the cities and towns, market gardens, fishing, and all that sort of thing. Their standard of living is regarded by our native British Columbians as being low, the competition is consequently very keen, and that has created a bit of a problem in Canada; but so far as immigration from Japan is concerned that is governed by a so-called Gentlemen's Agreement that Japan entered into a great many years ago which I am bound to say she has quite faithfully lived up to.

What would happen if Japan should get into a war against us I do not know. It is quite conceivable that she might send some warships to shell Vancouver or Victoria; but we in Canada have the very definite conviction that if that were likely to take place, at least 48 hours before those ships could get to Vancouver or Victoria the American fleet would be out.

Supply of war material ; American companies in Canada.

Mr. M. P. Price, M.P. (*Labour, Gloucester, Forest of Dean*) : I understand there was some talk not long ago, before the question was decided in the United States as to whether the

Neutrality Act should be altered, of many American companies starting branches in Canada across the border for the purpose of being ready to send war material over here under cover of the Canadian flag. If that is so, what is the position now that the Neutrality Act has been altered? Is it likely they will continue operating in Canada, or will they be sending materials over direct from the United States?

Mr. Crerar : I have no information on that point since I left home. Prior to the amending of the Neutrality Act there was some talk of the possibility of that happening and the likelihood that it would happen. But I do not think it is now likely to occur, and I think probably from our point of view it is just as well that it should not occur if we look forward to the problems that will follow the war.

We have developed a huge manufacturing business in Canada in which we employ a lot of people, and it would probably add to our problems in the period following the war. I do not think it has taken place, although I must say that I have been away from Canada for six weeks and do not know what has happened in the interval.

Major Sir William Colfox, Bt., M.C., M.P. (*Unionist, Dorset, West*) : Is Canada in a position to provide any oil or petroleum?

Mr. Crerar : Yes and no. The Turner Valley oilfield in Calgary has now a production of round about 35,000 to 40,000 barrels a day, and that production will be stepped up as new wells are being constantly drilled. There are undoubtedly very large potential reserves in this field. There are various estimates, but several hundred million barrels is probably a conservative estimate.

But when you get it out of the ground, the problem is to get it over here. We have no pipelines yet, but we could ship it in tankers, although that means going round the long haul through the Panama Canal. Or it might be sent by rail east. The problems of transportation are rather difficult problems at the moment. These resources will, however, be developed, and when we get a happier and more peaceful world we think they will be very useful.

Despatch of raw materials to Japan.

Mr. C. S. Taylor, M.P. (*Unionist, Eastbourne*): I understand that Canada on the Vancouver side has been shipping very large quantities of raw materials to Japan. Do you think there will be any long-term contracts that will prevent those materials from coming to this country?

Mr. Crerar: I think that has been exaggerated. Until a few years ago there were shipments of scrap iron to Japan, and I understand there is still some shipment of copper concentrates from a mine in British Columbia. But that matter is under review, and within recent weeks export licences to Japan have been refused on the ground that the materials were required by Canada and Britain.

We have instituted an exchange control in Canada, and a thoroughgoing system of licensing imports and exports; so that we have the trade of the country pretty well controlled, largely with the view of preventing essential materials getting into the hands of enemy countries. We wish, of course, to maintain our friendly relations with Japan, but Japan will not get anything that may be needed for the prosecution of the war here.

Attitude of Canadians of mid-European stock.

Mr. G. Lathan, M.P. (*Labour, Sheffield, Park*): You have referred to the position of the French-Canadians. In addition to those, there are many thousands of people resident in Canada of mid-European origin—Germans, Russians, Poles, and so on. They have had experience of Canada's democratic laws and facilities; are they supporting the Government to-day in the attitude it is taking up towards this conflict?

Mr. Crerar: I think we have 250,000 Germans in Canada, or people of German descent going back several generations. We have here and there Nazi enthusiasts in Canada, though very few. The number in internment camps totals only a few hundred, and I may say that that is after our Mounted Police for the last two years, under special instructions, have been watching very closely the activities of many of these people.

The great mass of our German people or those of German origin are law-abiding and among the best citizens of our

country. On the other hand, there may be and probably are some sympathisers with Germany among the German people who have come to Canada in more recent years, but of these those who are likely to make any trouble the number is very limited indeed.

Mr. David Adams, M.P. (*Labour, Durham, Consett*): May I ask if Canada is making any provision in the matter of shipbuilding?

Mr. Crerar: I think some steps are being taken to build the smaller types of vessels. That matter was under consideration at the time I left. I have had no additional information since I came to London.

The Chairman: I think our guest to-day has been very generous in answering questions. I will ask Lord Stanhope to move a Vote of Thanks.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Rt. Hon. Earl Stanhope, K.G., D.S.O., M.C. (*Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords*): Mr. Chairman, My Lords and Gentlemen: It is my privilege to move a very hearty Vote of Thanks to Mr. Crerar on behalf of all of us who have had the pleasure of listening to his Address.

I live in a corner of England where, four miles from my home, Wolfe was born, and three miles from it Amherst, who built a house, not unknown to you as Montreal, and settled down, and eight miles north of me is the house at Hayes where Chatham lived. Therefore that corner of England has often been described as the cradle of British North America.

Compare that with what you have told us to-day. In those days the whole direction of that war came from that little corner of England—not Scotland, you will observe, Mr. Chairman. The supplies for the troops and everything connected with it came from this small Island. To-day you have shown us a vista of a very different kind. From all the wide spaces of the King's Dominions are coming troops, aeroplanes, and every kind of provision for this great war, and your own Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, a very old friend of mine, has aptly described Canada as not only the granary but the arsenal of the Empire.

But that is not all, although that is a tremendous thing. When you come to think of what the air training scheme may do, let us look out of this window and see the sort of climate we have in this country and what opportunities our young men have of training here. In Canada it is a very different story.

Apart from that, when this war is won, whether in a long or a short time, we are going to be faced with appallingly difficult problems. Wide spaces breed wide views, and we shall look to you, Mr. Crerar, and your colleagues in Canada and the other Dominions of the Crown, to help us in the solution of those problems, and we know from what you have told us to-day that we shall not look in vain.

Mr. D. R. Grenfell, C.B.E., M.P. (*Labour, Gower*): My Lord: I was asked in case I caught your eye and was invited to say a word at this meeting to explain the cause of absence of Mr. Attlee and Mr. Greenwood and other members of the Party who habitually come to these meetings. They are upstairs at the present moment, where we have been bidding farewell to the representative of New Zealand, Mr. Peter Fraser, and where we have had the privilege of listening to him. I was asked to come down here in order to show that we are not disinterested in this other Dominion of Canada, which is larger in population and larger in material wealth than New Zealand.

I am proud to have been here to listen to this very encouraging speech. New Zealand has inspired us by what she has had to say, and on this, the first occasion on which I have heard the Canadian representative speak since his arrival a few weeks ago, I must say I have been delighted with the speech from Mr. Crerar. It is a speech showing a very considerable knowledge of the character of this war in which we are involved, and of the resources that will be involved both in materials and in men. I have been helped to understand this war, to a great extent, by what has been said here this morning.

It is, indeed, a very encouraging thing to us to hear, as the speaker has I think rightly said, and as Mr. Peter Fraser has said upstairs, that our morale is excellent. We in this country have never been more united, we have never understood each other better, but the circumstances are quite depressing. That is a feature of this war everywhere, in the enemy countries perhaps to a greater extent than here. There is some confusion

as to why the war came, and the questions are asked, could not the war have been stopped? Are we to carry on? What is to come at the end of it? All these questions are being asked all over the world. When representatives come and speak to us from the Dominions and the far-flung regions of our own territories where our own language is spoken, the words come to us as a tonic, and the suggestions of contribution suggest blood transfusion and the strengthening of the physical forces on our side.

I was very much pleased to hear the reference made to the raw materials which Canada has to place at our disposal. The timber and the minerals and metals are invaluable, and indeed indispensable to our success in this struggle. I have every confidence that we shall succeed. We shall succeed because we have the assistance of the Empire, and the moral support of a large portion of the civilised world. These tangible agents of war are very welcome indeed, and I was very pleased to hear that organization is afoot to provide us with all these materials.

But perhaps the thing that concerns us most is the realization that when men are called upon to serve, the youth of the Empire will again be on our side. I thank the speaker for the reference he has made to the quality of the Royal Air Force. They are perhaps our best. There we find the products of the democratic education of this country from the secondary schools which have been built up in my lifetime. They have enjoyed the privileges of higher education, and perhaps a better standard of life than the great majority in this country. They are our pick, and I feel quite sure that the Dominions will send their best to do this very great service side by side with our own people, and men will take charge of these tremendous machines which will win this war, those machines that are multiplying in numbers and improving and getting nearer to perfection every day. We feel quite satisfied that on this side we shall make a tremendous contribution of young manhood to man those machines, and Canada, New Zealand and Australia will make perhaps proportionately as high a contribution. We shall have the advantage of seeing a fine example of combined effort on the part of the Home Country and the Dominions.

Something has been said of the great Englishmen in the history of Canada, and the great Scotsmen, not forgetting the

great Frenchmen too. I observe one omission, and that is that there are no great Welshmen in the history of Canada. I tried to repair the omission and went there myself about 36 years ago, and I spent two years in that country, and I would like to believe that the Welsh influence is playing a great part in the response that Canada is making to-day. The support which we are getting from Canada and from all the Dominions is very welcome and very necessary. I feel quite sure that these forces are at our disposal because we have the right on our side.

We are suffering inconveniences. The speaker has referred to the black-out. He ought to be very careful how he speaks in the presence of the Minister of Information, because I am afraid the Minister of Information may be blacking us all out. We shall be compelled to limit the amount of artificial light at our disposal in these winter months, but I do hope we shall not black out the truth. I do hope we shall hold the torch of truth aloft. I feel quite sure, if the speeches made by our friend here this morning and by Mr. Peter Fraser upstairs a few minutes ago represent the views of the Dominions, and if we stand firmly by our own views in this country, we shall hold a space clear for the life of future generations where men shall live in safety and in freedom, and we shall have the light of truth and knowledge to guide the footsteps of the generations to come. I wish to thank the speaker very much for his address, and I second the Vote of Thanks to him.

(The Motion was carried with acclamation.)

Mr. D. Kirkwood, M.P. (*Labour, Dumbarton Burghs*): Mr. Chairman: Seeing that Lord Stanhope has made a statement to the effect that it was not Scotsmen but Englishmen from a certain little corner of England who were responsible for winning Canada, may I say that he evidently forgets that it was the Scots who won Canada. It was the Highlanders under Wolfe. He had fought against them at Culloden, which goes to show that a great statesman had been at work.

It was Pitt on the advice of Donald Forbes, then Lord Advocate, who was able to say in the House on the 14th January, 1765, six years after the fall of Quebec:—

“I have no local attachments; it is indifferent to me whether a man was rocked in his cradle on this side or that side of the Tweed. I sought for merit wherever it was to be found. It is my boast that I

was the first Minister who looked for it, and I found it in the mountains in the North. I called it forth, and drew it into your service, a hardy and intrepid race of men! men, who, when left by your jealousy, and became a prey to the artifices of your enemies, and had gone nigh to have overturned the State in the war before the last. These men, in the last war, were brought to combat on your side; they served with fidelity, as they fought with valour, and conquered for you in every part of the world.”

The Chairman: I am sure Mr. Crerar will go back to Canada much cheered by those words, and will realise that in spirit Scotland stands where she did.

Mr. Crerar: I want to thank you, Lord Macmillan and Gentlemen, for your very kind appreciation of my poor effort. May I say I have a certain amount of sympathy with Mr. Kirkwood. It is true that that part of England that Lord Stanhope mentioned has made a wonderful contribution; but the same thought was in my mind as in that of Mr. Kirkwood, that it was the Fraser Highlanders who scaled the heights to the Plains of Abraham and led the charge against the French that resulted in their defeat and the epoch-making consequences that followed.

May I add this just before I sit down? There is one curious thing that has resulted from that event. The Highland Regiment was disbanded I think in 1763, and many of those Scottish Highlanders married into French families, and to-day you can find Rosses and Mackenzies and other Scottish names of people in Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula who are wholly French-Canadian. Some have risen to quite important posts, clerical and otherwise, but cannot speak a word of English, and certainly not a word of Gaelic.

The proceedings then terminated.