

for Naval Services and urged the Government not to proceed with the construction of destroyers. I will give now the same reasons that I gave then. We have not the necessary expert technicians here, although I understand the Minister went to England and probably has been able to have some experts brought over. A destroyer will cost at least \$5,000,000; two of them will cost a sum of \$10,000,000. They are armed with 4.7 guns, anti-aircraft guns and torpedoes. Of course, destroyers are needed, but the need for them is not as pressing as it is for cargo ships. Five or six cargo ships, each of 10,000 tons, could be built in a relatively short time for the \$10,000,000 that would be spent on two destroyers, whose construction would require two years. My honourable friend the leader (Hon. Mr. King) may not agree with the suggestion I will make now. He has a good deal of influence with his Cabinet colleagues and the Government, and I should like him to urge the Government to stop this destroyer-building business and to put every man, every dollar and every ounce of energy possible into the building of cargo ships.

Hon. CREELMAN MacARTHUR: Honourable senators, Prince Edward Island is considered a pretty poor province. We are the smallest province in Canada and we are getting no consideration from the Government. In the recent plebiscite Prince Edward Island voted Yes; Quebec voted No. Our gasoline ration coupons are good for two gallons each, but Quebec's are good for five gallons. There you are. We have a car ferry which is nothing but a glorified scow. Our \$2,000,000 boat went to the bottom, and we can get no satisfaction as to what is being done about replacing it. Now, Prince Edward Island will either go along as one of the provinces of Canada, under Confederation, or it will go otherwise. We will not continue to put up with things as they are. We have no transportation service, and we cannot find out when we are likely to get any. I left home Sunday to get here. There was no train connection at Tormentine, but we got the bus to Moncton. We have no car ferry—nothing. Now, this condition must be remedied; that is all there is to it. We must have our transportation difficulties cleared up. We want honourable members from the Central and Western Provinces to support our claim for better transportation facilities. Either Prince Edward Island will have adequate train and car ferry services, as one of the nine provinces, or she will go out.

Hon. B. F. SMITH: Has the honourable senator the full say for Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: I have something to say for it, and you in New Brunswick should also have something to say in our support. I repeat, these Prince Edward Island transportation deficiencies must be made good, and we are looking to honourable members from the West and the Middle West to give us a break. At the present time we are getting no satisfaction whatever.

Hon. C. E. TANNER: Honourable senators, I have something to add to the remarks with regard to shipbuilding so forcibly made by the honourable leader on this side (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne). I think one is quite safe in saying that the cargo-shipbuilding programme of the Government has proven to be the most calamitous and futile of any of its efforts.

Of course, this Bill comes to us after having been discussed for a long time in another place, where relatively few members endeavoured to get information as to how the war effort is being carried on. I endeavoured to follow the proceedings in the other House, and a perusal of the Debates convinced me that it was very difficult for members to get information, not because of any lack of diligence on their part in seeking it, but because those in a position to do so were most reluctant to furnish any information.

I think it is worth while calling attention to the fact that this country has now been at war for two years and nine months—and, mind you, we were not dragged into the war. Of our own volition we declared war, first on Germany, then on Italy. Parliament met and authorized those declarations of war. Then the Government, while Parliament was not sitting, forgot all about the pledges it had given to the country that Canada would never become involved in war with any nation without prior parliamentary approval. What happened? The Government declared war on Rumania, on Hungary, on Finland, and then, right off its own bat, on Japan. It might have been all right for the Government to do so in the absence of the pledges to which I have referred, but, these pledges having been given, it certainly was not all right for the Government to act without parliamentary approval. I often pondered, when the Government declared war on Rumania, and Hungary and Finland, and then on Japan, what plan of action it had in mind. What did it intend us to do—to sit down pat and wait for those nations to invade Canada, or to go out and meet them? I have never heard any member of the Cabinet explain just what the Government intended. Perhaps my honourable friend opposite (Hon. Mr. King) can enlighten us.