

coal, which Providence has placed at our hands, to lag behind the world's progress and to continue for years to send these resources in the crude state to the United States instead of manufacturing them at home? Already the iron and steel industry has cost much to the people of Canada to develop, and one of the most important branches of that industry would be found in ship-building. I ask these gentlemen who have been luckier than I have, and who have visited the great shipyards of the Motherland, is not ship-building in England, Ireland and Scotland perhaps the greatest industry of the Empire. Are we going to dispose of our vast natural resources for the upbuilding of other nations, as we are to-day doing in New Brunswick, when we are sending our iron ore to the United States instead of turning it into the building of ships in our own country? And if we cannot keep our shipyards busy turning out battleships, we can keep them occupied making those great commercial ships which traverse the ocean and visit our ports on the Atlantic and Pacific. I trust the people of Canada will ponder over the article in the Manchester Guardian, which I placed on record to-day, because I feel that in that article there is suggested a solution which will settle this question for all time to come, without causing dissension among political parties. Let the Government appeal to the people of Canada, and if they are sustained we will give them all the money they want to carry out their policy, but we will refuse to give them the money until they make that appeal.

Mr. TOBIN: It was not my intention to take part in this debate to-day, but as I see the Government has decided to close the discussion by to-morrow night, I think it my duty, as representing a constituency with a population of forty thousand people, to give the reasons why I am against this contribution of \$35,000,000 being sent out of the country instead of spending it at home in the development of the ship-building industry and for the benefit of our own artisans, labourers and of the business community generally. We, in this Parliament of Canada, may differ on various questions which are submitted to us, but we never forget that we are all Canadians, whether we be of Irish, German, French, English, or Scotch descent. And, Sir, as Canadians, we have rights which ought to be preserved, and it is a sad thing in a free Parliament under the British flag to have the representatives of British subjects denied free speech. The Prime Minister says he has a mandate from the people to carry out this policy of contribution, but I would like to know where he got that mandate. I remember

he issued a manifesto previous to the last general election, but in that manifesto there was not a single word regarding contribution. He visited the Eastern Townships of the province of Quebec, and I had the honour of having him address a meeting in the town of Richmond in my county, when he propounded the policy he would put in force were he returned to power, but at that meeting he never spoke regarding this contribution of \$35,000,000. The candidate against me then, part of the time was a supporter of the Prime Minister and part of the time a supporter of Mr. Monk, and that candidate got up in the presence of the Prime Minister and said that were he elected, and he thought he would be, he would vote against any government and any prime minister who would favour a naval policy, or contribution, without first submitting it to the people. The right hon. gentlemen spoke in other parts of Quebec; he spoke in the county of Shefford, where Mr. Davidson was out in opposition to my good friend and neighbour (Mr. Boivin). Mr. Davidson was not in favour of a contribution and here is what he said in the address he issued to the electors of Shefford:

I declare that if I am elected on the 1st of September next, I shall work and vote against any prime minister of any party who wish to continue the present policy with respect to the navy, such as voted upon in 1910, without having first given the Canadian people an opportunity of making their opinion known on that question by way of a plebiscite or special referendum.

If I am elected I shall work further to the effect that the rights and privileges of the French Canadian and Catholic minorities in the other provinces shall be recognized and respected as well as those of the English speaking minority in the Province of Quebec. Separate schools acknowledgement of the French language, etc.

We, Conservative, believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government is weak and corrupt; that they now adopt a policy which is adverse to the best interests of Canada, and that while they boast of having raised Canada to the rank of a nation, they now propose to sacrifice her interests.

On the 29th of March a resolution presented by the hon. member for North Toronto, the present Minister of Trade and Commerce, was passed unanimously in this House. The present leader of the Government on that occasion used these words:

In so far as my right hon. friend, the Prime Minister to-day outlined the lines of naval defence of this country, I am entirely at one with him. I am entirely of opinion, in the first place, that the proper line upon which we should proceed in that regard, is the line of having a Canadian naval force of our own. I entirely believe in that. The other experi-