

for the successful establishing of such plants, and that our growing shipping trade warrants such a venture. We have given bounties to encourage steel, lead and other industrial pursuits, why not go a step further, and if necessary offer bounties to induce ship-building in Canada? But the member for Pictou calls it tribute. But it was not my intention to go into details or make suggestions as to how best this policy could be carried out, and I was only induced to do so by the argument of the right hon. the First Minister. But, Sir, before we can do that, we want to take the people into our confidence, we want to weigh well our position in this regard and see that everything is looked into carefully in advance and not have the same fiasco as we have had in the past.

Coming to the Bill itself, the Prime Minister assured the House that he had the unanimous support of his followers. I am not surprised at that. In this Bill we have something unlike anything in the Heavens above, in the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth. Therefore, our hon. friends can fall down and worship it. This Bill can be made all things to all men, if by any means we can save Laurier. That is the position we have before us. They can take this Bill to Quebec and say: We are not giving away your money in contributions to the British empire as the opposition are prepared to do; we are doing as little as we possibly can, and that little we are spending with you. Then they can go to the other provinces and say: We are doing exactly what the British admiralty asked for. And yet, as we see by clause 18, and the quotations I have made from the Prime Minister and the official organ of the party, they have said that they have neither part nor parcel in the wars of the empire. So I say that every man who is loyal to himself and loyal to his country should support the amendment of the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden).

Now for a moment let us look at that amendment and see what we are asking for as compared with the Bill before the House. This clause of that amendment reads as follows:

The proposals of the government do not follow the suggestions and recommendations of the admiralty and in so far as they empower the government to withhold the naval forces of Canada from those of the empire in time of war are ill-advised and dangerous.

I would ask if any man can dispute the proposition laid down in the first clause of the resolution, that they are not following out the request of the admiralty. Clause 5 of the conference at page 24 says:

In the opinion of the admiralty, a Dominion government desirous of creating a navy should aim at forming a distinct fleet unit; and the smallest unit is one which, while manageable

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in time of peace, is capable of being used in its component parts in time of war.

The fleet unit to be aimed at, should, therefore, in the opinion of the admiralty, consist at least of the following:—

- 1 armoured cruiser (new 'Indomitable' class) which is of the 'Dreadnought' type.
- 3 unarmoured cruisers ('Bristol' class).
- 6 destroyers.
- 3 submarines.

Again, clause 11, reads:

As the armoured cruiser is the essential part of the fleet unit, it is important that an 'Indomitable' of the 'Dreadnought' type should be the first vessel to be built in commencing the formation of a fleet unit.

We have there ample evidence that that clause as introduced into the resolution is justified. Again the second clause of the resolution reads:

That no such proposals can safely be accepted, unless they thoroughly ensure unity of organization and of action, without which there can be no effective co-operation in any common scheme of empire defence.

I have shown that this is the opinion not only of Australia at the imperial defence conference but also of the British admiralty, that they have clearly pointed out that under modern conditions a separate unit is of little or no value. Let me here say a word with reference to the last speaker's lauding of the Ross rifle. Not longer ago than the conference of 1902, the admiralty took occasion to refer to that and pointed out that even so small a departure as that was a very serious thing to the empire. They pointed out the absolute necessity of an interchange of arms in an imperial war and the advantage it would be to have rifles of the one type.

Then again, the resolution says:

That no permanent policy should be entered upon involving large future expenditures of this character until it has been submitted to the people and has received their approval.

I think it is a reasonable proposition. As has been pointed out here to-night and during this debate, we are making a new departure. There is no reason at this time why we should not take the people into our confidence. There is no reason why we should not go before them and ask their instructions in regard to this great question. It is one that will involve a very large expenditure of money, it is one too that will mean a great change just as the introduction of our national policy in 1878 and it is one on which I think the people should be consulted. Again, the resolution reads:

That in the meantime the immediate duty of Canada and the impending necessities of the empire can best be discharged and met by placing without delay at the disposal of the imperial authorities as a free and loyal