

come for all to get together and do something with regard to the defence of our coast-line. We may have to do a little less as far as the militia is concerned, and cut down on the appropriations for flying, except in so far as they relate to and fit in with naval affairs. I say the citizens of Canada must be made to realize that we owe a duty to the Empire, and I respectfully submit that the proposal I have made with regard to the development of the fisheries of this country will do more than anything else towards building up our naval defences.

I read the other day a book called *The Great Blockade*. The author tells the story of certain naval operations during the War. While perhaps he gives too much credit to the seamen who were on the boats engaged in blockade duties, yet one feels convinced after reading the story that if it had not been for those twenty-six or twenty-seven ships of the merchant marine which were commandeered by the naval authorities in Great Britain and which day after day and night after night for four long years patrolled the North Sea and kept the Germans from getting supplies, and if the crews of those boats had not been good seamen and had not done their duty, the War would have continued much longer.

Who were the men who made up the crews of those ships? Read *The Big Blockade* and you will find that while, of course, the officers were taken from the Royal Naval Reserve, the seamen and those who boarded the German and Norwegian ships that were attempting to carry goods into Germany were Newfoundland fishermen. It was they who took these ships into Kirkwall. And I say to honourable members that if there is any class of people in this country who deserve to be encouraged it is our fishermen. We can build up a navy only if the fishing industry of this country is encouraged. If the Government and Parliament are wise they will at the earliest possible moment do something to rehabilitate that industry, which is now in a very bad condition. It is an industry capable of contributing hundreds of millions of dollars of new wealth to this country, and it is one which does not ask to be given something for nothing.

I cannot too strongly urge upon honourable senators the fact that encouragement of the fisheries is necessary for the building up of a strong naval reserve. I have referred to the effective part played by Newfoundland fishermen towards saving the Empire during the War. I do not think it can be doubted that if we are ever going to build up a navy our fishermen must be part and

parcel of the scheme, so that if guns are ever fired again—I hope they will not be—the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces, of the St. Lawrence river and of the Pacific coast will be able to say, "Ready, aye ready."

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: I have been very much interested in listening to my honourable friend's very informative speech, but I must confess I was disappointed with regard to its termination. He said at the beginning that Canada was unable to protect her 7,000 miles of coast-line. He drew attention to the fact that we have only four destroyers. The largest guns on those destroyers are 4.7. Now, Canada undertook some years ago to defend her own coast-line and to protect her sea routes. I should like to ask the honourable gentleman what he suggests should be done at the present time with regard to increasing our naval forces. He possesses a great deal of information and is aware of the critical position in which Canada stands. Is he in favour of more light cruisers? Is he in favour of having the Naval College reopened? I agree with what he says about the training of certain ratings on fishing boats, but, as I pointed out in my first speech in this debate, men who desire to become officers have to go through a highly technical course of training. That can be obtained only at a naval college in this country or in England. Within a few weeks the Prime Minister and his colleagues will be attending the Imperial Conference, and one of the most important questions on the agenda will be the defence of the Empire.

I should like the honourable gentleman to tell this House what he thinks Canada should do in order to provide adequate protection for her own coasts. Will he tell us the types of ships, and how many of them, we ought to have? Does he not think that we ought to proceed towards getting them at once, instead of continuing to depend upon the British Government? And I should like particularly to hear my honourable friend's opinion about the advisability of reopening the Naval College.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: I am sure, honourable senators, that I appreciate the compliment which my honourable friend, a former Minister of Naval Affairs, has paid to the only admiral of the fleet. Perhaps it would not be quite fair for me, a layman and an ordinary business man, one who has no governmental responsibilities, to express an opinion as to what should be done. Yet it may be all right for me to make a suggestion.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Certainly.