

I agree with my right honourable leader that the present is an opportune time for our naval authorities to discuss with the naval authorities on the other side just what we should do in times of peace and just what we should do in times of war. I have had the privilege on more than one occasion of discussing questions like this, not only with the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, but also with the Sea Lords. If I had known that I was going to speak this afternoon I should have liked to have before me a report that I made when Minister of Naval Affairs on my return from the Imperial Conference of 1920-1921. The outstanding features, if my memory serves me correctly, were somewhat like these. We had at that time a naval college—I regret that it is now closed—upon the efficiency of which we were warmly complimented by the Sea Lords and by the Civil Lord. I was told that all our cadets were a credit to Canada and also to the Imperial Navy, while serving with it, by reason of the very efficient manner in which they carried out their duties. There were in the Imperial Navy, I believe, about sixty-five cadets paid by Canada. It was agreed that eight cadets should be received into the Imperial Navy every year. It was further agreed that we should interchange officers and other ratings and ships with the Imperial Navy, so that in case of trouble the one would know how to work with the other. Then there was a program laid out for some years ahead, under which Canada, when financially able, was to provide not only destroyers, mine sweepers and submarines, but also light cruisers.

On the two destroyers that Canada now has, the largest gun is 4.7. The *Aurora*, which was allowed to rust away at the city of Halifax, had six-inch guns. Anyone who has read naval history must know that destroyers with 4.7-inch guns could never defend our coasts against cruisers and battleships with 8-inch, 10-inch and 15-inch guns. Therefore all that Canada can hope to do now is to protect her own coasts in so far as she is able; and I would humbly suggest to the Government that if the finances will permit of it we ought to have, in addition to these two destroyers, at least a light cruiser on the Pacific coast and also a light cruiser on the Atlantic coast. And I am sure that if our naval bases were looked into it would be found they are not in that proper and efficient state which they should be in, either at Esquimalt or at Halifax. Here again it follows that my right honourable leader (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) is giving sound

advice when he says the time has arrived when the naval authorities here and in London should sit down together and decide what should be done in regard to improving our fortifications at Esquimalt and Halifax, and what we should carry there in the way of munitions, supplies and so on.

There is no use in our giving any consideration whatsoever to the so-called Monroe doctrine. I am not speaking politically at all. We are proud to be part of the British Empire. We are not desirous of having war either on our own shores or abroad, and everything that we can possibly do will be done to maintain peace. But let us try to realize more clearly than ever before the great advantages of being part of the British Empire, and work hand-in-glove with her.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Let us not only work with her in regard to trade policies, which have been of such great benefit to this country, but let us co-operate loyally and enthusiastically with the military authorities and the British Navy and do what we can to place ourselves in such a position here that if we are ever attacked by an enemy Great Britain and we ourselves will know how to act and when to move. With the small craft that we have here now, all we could ever hope to do would be to drive a few submarines away.

It has been said at times that in the event of the Imperial authorities becoming embroiled in another war Canada could remain neutral. We all know that would be quite impossible. Supposing we did decide to be neutral, we should have no means of keeping enemy ships away from Esquimalt or Halifax. While I realize that Canada is not committed to entrance into another European war, I want to leave this thought with the House, as my leader did. Let us arouse ourselves and look into this question of defence. Let us consider it with the proper authorities and do what we can to co-operate with them. So far as the defence of the Empire is concerned, let us walk arm in arm with John Bull.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. GEORGE LYNCH-STANTON: Honourable members, I had no intention when I came here this afternoon, nor have I now, of making a long speech. This question of what should be our policy for the defence of the Dominion of Canada is the most important one with which we have to deal. In my opinion the Parliament of Canada should adopt a non-partisan policy on this question. I have listened to the honourable leader of the House