

to-day before the jury of the people of this country. Every step in advance they have taken upon this matter has received the full endorsement of every man on the other side of the House who is supposed to have anything to do with directing the policy of the party. Now, I am going to call a witness who is not so reputable, whose judgment upon questions of this sort does not inspire the same confidence as does the judgment of my hon. friend; still he is witness, he belongs to the enemy's camp, I refer to the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster). This gentleman says, not upon his oath, but upon his honour as a public man in parliament:

So far I have been dealing with the stated normal policy that I think Canada ought to adopt.

Mark you, 'Canada ought to adopt.'

General lines of defence by a coast line and harbour defence of small vessels—

That is the tin pot navy the hon. gentleman sneers at.

—at first we would make the attack of the rambling, raiding cruiser a doubtful and dangerous one, and which would ward off the first brunt until more sufficient aid could be brought if the force were a menacing one.

Then my hon. friend went on and said:

It is said also that there are physical and mechanical difficulties to be overcome. I have mentioned these—they can be overcome. Time and the application of a reasonable amount of resource will overcome those difficulties and place us where we have had to place ourselves with reference to every other great line of development; we must begin at the beginning and work up gradually until we gain the skill, the plant, the machinery and the power to make for ourselves what at first it was physically impossible for us to make.

That is pretty good testimony to start with. Then my hon. friend grew more eloquent. My hon. friend went on to say that he did not believe in the policy of a country hiring some one else to do these things for it, any more than be believed in a thoroughly good healthy man hiring some one else to look after his family. Then the hon. gentleman came to another consideration and he said:

Then would come the dockyards, which would be of sufficient size to enable us to repair the smaller vessels, and in time build the smaller vessels that we need at first, to be implemented by co-operation between Canada and Great Britain in the shape of a dockyard sufficient to dock any lame vessel of the British navy that might happen to limp to our coast and require refitting and repairs. And so, in that progressive, gradual way working up to the fulfilment of this idea, a defensive force in Canada which would be an auxiliary in the case of an outbreak of actual hostilities, which would be sufficient for the ordinary surveillance of our coasts,

and which would be, in time of war, sufficient to work in conjunction with the main portion of the fleet that would be sent to the part of our country that was menaced.

Hon. gentleman opposite are trying to run away from the splendid policy with which they had become impregnated, and even in the harangue we had last Thursday, my hon. friend, in trying to save his face, dropped this remark which was probably his true sentiment with regard to the matter:

Having seaports on the Pacific and seaports on the Atlantic at the present time, entirely at the mercy of the smallest armed gunboat of a hostile power, we thought that was an unworthy position, an unsafe position, and that what Canada ought to do was her own proper work, and make some provision, some adequate provision, for the defence of her seaports and her exposed harbours and coasts.

Will the proposition to borrow \$25,000,000 and send it across the ocean to be spent by the British admiralty, without restriction or condition that they should ever spend a dollar in or for Canada, meet the aspiration which this hon. gentleman set forth there? But, witnesses are prolific they are numerous, they are to be had from every quarter, and we have only to go to a former leader of the Conservative party, to the grand old chieftain whom these gentlemen were proud to follow, next after Sir John Macdonald himself, to the man who led them in 1896 and 1900. He has told his successor what he should do and he has told the people of Canada on more than one occasion what their duty was and where their interest lay in dealing with this question. Now, Mr. Speaker, of course, the hon. member for North Toronto told us that it was only lately that the Liberal party had gone to Sir Charles Tupper for an authority. I have noticed that my hon. friends on the other side have not been going to Sir Charles Tupper of late for very much inspiration. It hardly lies in the mouth of the hon. member for North Toronto to talk about our interest in Sir Charles Tupper. I think there are a good many gentlemen on the other side of the House who have lost interest in that gentleman, and I am afraid from all I hear, that Sir Charles Tupper has lost interest in a good many of them. If that is so then we start fair. Sir Charles Tupper, who has retired from political life, after the longest experience of any public man in this country, writes to his successor this admonition:

I am glad to learn that you have resolved to maintain the patriotic attitude that the Conservative party assumed last session.

There is a ring of the old man about those words.

A few years ago, when Canada was struggling to open up for British settlement the