

correct there must be two very similar vessels of the same name in the Royal navy, because the information given by the right hon. the Prime Minister is similar to what is observed in Janes' book. In that book it is stated to have been launched in 1897, and the statement made by the Prime Minister just now was that it was launched in 1902. Either there are two vessels of the same name, and similar in many respects in the Royal navy or the information given by this book is wrong or the information of the right hon. the Prime Minister is wrong. Here are the dimensions of the 'Niobe' as given in this publication which is looked upon as a standard publication: Displacement, 11,000 tons; sheathed and coppered, with a complement of 677 men; water line length, 450 feet; beam 69 feet; maximum draft, 27½ feet; length over all, 460½ feet. And here is her armament: 16 six-inch wire guns of 40 calibre; 12, twelve pounders; of 12 cwt. and two 12 pounders of 8 cwt.; 12 three pounders; 2 maxims and 2 submerged torpedo tubes, and other things of that kind. That is the description, given in this work, of the 'Niobe', the vessel I presume that this government is bringing out here as a training ship. If this is not the vessel, I think we ought to know what vessel the government is bringing out, because this 'Niobe' is one of the 'Diadem' class and I refer the Prime Minister to the statement of the Minister of Militia when introducing this subject, he spoke of the 'Niobe' being of the 'Diadem' class. The first vessels of the 'Niobe' class were the 'Diadem', the 'Niobe', the 'Europa' and the 'Andromeda'. Now, as to what other vessel in that class was built in 1902, I have no information, and I think the matter is worth a little information.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand there is no difference. The ship was commissioned in 1902, it might have been commenced earlier.

Mr. DANIEL. It was launched in 1897. I understood you to say it was built or launched in 1902.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Commissioned, I understand.

Mr. DANIEL. I understand now she was commissioned in 1902.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is what I am told. I am not the Minister of Marine, and I take the information which is given to me.

Mr. H. H. McLEAN. I might call the attention of the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Daniel) to the naval Blue-book for 1909. There the 'Niobe' appears in the 'Diadem' class, in which there are eight vessels, and in one place it states when

Mr. DANIEL.

she was built, in another place, when she was launched, and then there is a date, 1899, when she was completed, and 1902, when that class was completed.

Mr. DANIEL. When she was commissioned.

Mr. H. H. McLEAN. The confusion may have arisen in this way, that 1902 was put here as the date when she was completed along with the date of 1899 when she was launched. Apparently, the figures differ in the different books. One book gives the date of launching as 1899, but Brassey's 'Naval Annual' makes it 1897, and completion 1899.

Mr. DANIEL. I have no doubt that the figures given are quite correct. She was launched in 1897 and completed in 1899, and, I presume, not commissioned until 1902. No doubt, there were more vessels than these four of the 'Diadem' class. And, apparently, the four built after this first four were not as heavy consumers of coal as these four, of which the 'Niobe' is one. The 'Diadem', the 'Niobe', the 'Europa', and the 'Andromeda' were all great coal consumers, and when run at full power they consumed from 15 to 17 tons of coal per hour.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Did the Prime Minister make any inquiry, before this ship the 'Niobe' was purchased, to ascertain how many people were injured by defect of her machinery and boilers, and as to the amount of money it has cost the British government to keep her machinery and boilers in proper repair?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am not aware that any such inquiry has been made. It may have been made, but I do not know. All this information that hon. members opposite are asking for I do not myself possess, and I will have to inquire. But I am told that the 'Niobe' was thought so well of that she is flying the flag of the rear admiral.

Mr. BOYCE. Who examined or inspected her for the Canadian government with a view to purchase?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not know that she was inspected for the Canadian government. We accepted the inspection of the admiralty.

Mr. BOYCE. She was bought without inspection?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Without inspection other than that given by the admiralty, and the statement made by the admiralty which we accepted as correct.

Mr. BOYCE. Has nobody seen her?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. She has been seen by Admiral Kingsmill time and again; he knows her perfectly well.