

because we were not able to enter into the procession or show ourselves on the Hudson. We could have well been spared the shame of having to make the painful reply that we were obliged to decline the invitation because we had no warship. Picture to yourselves, hon. gentlemen, what would happen if to-morrow our people residing along the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, were to announce that an unknown fleet of sailing vessels, such as existed a century and a half ago, were to ascend the St. Lawrence river, and what if we were to learn that this fleet, of which no one had heard, and no one knew, was no other than the fleet of Wolfe conveying his army. How would we oppose a fleet manned by such heroes as we all know they were, warriors who never flinched before anything to assure the triumph of their country, if they arrived before Quebec without any other equipment than such as was in use a century and a half ago, what would prevent them taking Quebec? We desire to remain members of the British empire, and like them to have full control of our political institutions. We desire to become a nation and assume equally with them all the responsibilities which fall upon them. We have hoped that this question of the creation of a Canadian navy would remain truly a national question, above the warfare of parties. We have hoped that the peoples' representatives, united as they were last March, would adopt without discussion the project of creating a Canadian navy. Unhappily, politics has been mingled with it and the question promises to become one most difficult to settle. Let us hope that the Canadian people will understand their interests, and the responsibilities incumbent upon them, and as one people face the situation with honour because one cannot avoid difficulties by simply ignoring them nor relieve himself of responsibilities by turning his back to them. A contribution of money has been spoken of. The time has gone by when it would be considered legitimate to have recourse to a stranger to defend us. So long as we are a source of weakness, whether on land or on sea, to the empire, so long shall we feel that we are only a colony, that our national will lacks force and that our voice is feeble in the discussion of the affairs of

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC.

the empire; that we have not the strength of a nation ready to defend itself, and which pays its share to be safeguarded in its autonomy and its dignity. Let me state, honourable gentlemen, how we should, in my opinion, approach the question of the creation of a Canadian navy. The policy of a country while respecting personal sentiment, should only be guided by the great interests of the people. Statesmen should remember that they are not the judges but simply the representatives of the people who have no great comprehension of theories of peace at any price. They understand the old classical expression "si vis pacem para bellum," and they prefer in this hard world to be the hammer rather than the anvil.

I do not wish to prolong the discussion on this question. My hon. colleague who has already addressed the House has described very clearly to you the situation. We shall have future occasions to discuss this important problem.

Passing to the other question in the speech from the Throne, which treats of the progress accomplished in the construction of the National Transcontinental railway, a despatch published yesterday in a newspaper announces from an official source—that is to say the Grand Trunk Pacific office—the happy news of the opening of the section of the National Transcontinental railway from Port Arthur to Edmonton for passenger as well as for freight traffic. This is pleasant news, because if this railway should be constructed, the sooner it is completed the better it will be for the development of our great country. The sooner it is in operation the sooner we shall receive the revenues which will reduce the expenditure which weighs on the country, for the sooner the construction is ended the sooner will the Grand Trunk Railway Company which will operate it, become responsible for the interest on the sums advanced by the government.

I shall not speak any longer. My colleague who preceded me dealt with the other questions and it is useless for me to add anything. I believe I interpret the sentiment of every one present in seconding with very great pleasure the motion of my honourable colleague to the effect that a message of thanks be sent to His Excel-