

us, and the interests of the Empire next. The hon. gentleman gave us to understand that this scheme for building three dreadnoughts was the scheme of the British Admiralty. One would imagine, listening to him, that the British Admiralty had disapproved of any other scheme, or certainly had not approved of any other scheme, and that if we did not endorse this scheme, we were flying in the face of the Imperial Government.

What is the fact? The fact is that the British Government and Admiralty approved of the Laurier scheme of 1910. Every one knows that the right hon. leader of the present Administration paid visits to Europe in order, apparently, to get the Admiralty to concur in his view. The Admiralty, naturally, were anxious to get help, and if they could not get what had been promised by the former Administration, they would be glad to take what was promised by their successors.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL—Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the Admiralty approved of the course which the late Government adopted with regard to the navy?

Hon. Mr. POWER—Yes.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Surely, and they designed the boats and sent out the blue prints.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL—One at a time.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It is handy to have some one to answer for you.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman stated that the former Administration were not in earnest in dealing with this question, because they did not award the contracts before going out of power. Now, hon. gentlemen before it was time to let the contracts, there was a fight in the House of Commons and in the country which terminated in a general election, and the defeat of the late Government. I think it would have been an unseemly thing on the part of the Government, whose fate was hanging in the balance, to have awarded contracts for immense sums. If they had done that, then the hon. gentleman would have come in here and condemned them in the very strongest terms for having done what they had done. I think, as far as regards that particular question, the late Government did the decent thing; they left

the Administration to whom the people had entrusted the power, the right to deal with this question. And if, as it turned out to be the case, the new Administration did not approve of the late Government's scheme, then they were able to set their own scheme before the country. The hon. gentleman stated that this question of the three dreadnoughts was that chiefly discussed during the election of 1911. No doubt there had been something said about it, but every hon. gentleman who travels through the country, or who reads the newspapers or listened to the speeches made during that campaign knows that outside the province of Quebec the three dreadnoughts cut a very small figure indeed. The great thing, the subject which was most discussed, was the Reciprocity Treaty. From one end of the country to the other, the patriotic feeling of Canadians was called upon, and they were asked to have no truck or trade with the Yankees.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Nothing of the kind.

Hon. Mr. POWER—To-day apparently even the leader of the Government goes down to Washington or New York and is exceedingly friendly with those gentlemen across the line, with whom we were to have no truck or trade.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Not a bit of it, it never was said.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Then the hon. gentleman criticised the amendment moved by my right hon. friend to my right, to the Naval Bill. Had the hon. gentleman forgotten that that resolution was identical with the amendment he moved to the Bill of 1910?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Verbatim.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Almost verbatim et literatim.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Entirely different subject.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The Naval Bill.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—An entirely different Naval Bill. I would say to my hon. friend that I must have been justified in moving as I did, because they did submit it.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Something depends upon whose ox it is. On this question of loyalty, and on the attitude of the British Admiralty, it is only necessary to call attention to the fact that Australia has