

appropriating money for armaments, we cannot reasonably suppose that they will not be more exacting than ourselves as regards the sharing of powers, riches and other advantages.

And if we Canadians are obliged to make further sacrifices towards armaments, let us at any rate retain control, and not only in principle or in theory, but practically, effectively and permanently. We shall thereby occupy a better position in matters of international import, and obtain better treatment should we become a party to some treaty of alliance, or otherwise, with other nations.

However, let us hope that before these ships that we are about to build have become old, out-of-date, through the progress of aerial navigation and otherwise, the arbitrators of international peace will have accomplished long ago, that is they will have contributed to the settlement of that question the required quota of good will in the shape of mutual concessions, and that these ships instead of being used as a means of prolonging such unreasonable and onerous conflicts, will have for the greater part been remodelled and made to develop international trade, that powerful agency for promoting international prosperity and welfare.

Mr. THOMAS CHISHOLM (East Huron). I am sorry I was not able to follow very closely the speech of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Beauparlant) who has just sat down. If I understood him correctly, however, he directed a good deal of his discourse towards the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), and also the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster). While I applaud his enthusiasm and the patriotic way in which he delivered himself, I detected however, a strain of selfishness in his address, for he seemed to confine his patriotism almost entirely to the province of Quebec. Now I will just say that the Dominion should be taken as a whole, we should have equal loyalty to every part of this Dominion. The province of Quebec is not the whole of Canada; and there seems to be in some quarters a feeling that the proposed fleet should lie in the mouth of the St. Lawrence. Again, I think we should take in the whole of the British empire into our consideration, just as we should take in the whole Dominion. We should look to the safety of the British empire, feeling that we are citizens of that empire. I am sure that if the province of Quebec were attacked, the other eight provinces would rise as one man to go to her defence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have followed this debate very carefully for a number of days, and I have tried to do so with an open mind. I feel that we should conduct this

discussion entirely above politics, and it is in that view that I desire to discuss it myself. In the first place when this question began to be discussed, I was under the impression that we should have a Canadian fleet built by Canadians, built in Canada, and of Canadian materials. However, as the discussion has gone on, one question struck me continually, and I waited day after day and hour after hour to hear that question answered. That question is this: What are we going to do for Britain and the British empire if the British empire is attacked within the next five years? We have no guarantee that peace will be maintained for five years, that Germany will not attack Britain within the next five years. But we are told plainly that it will take us one year to enlarge our dry docks, and four years at least to build our little Bristols. Now what are we going to do in the meantime? Are seven and a half millions of King Edward's loyal subjects on this side of the Atlantic going to stand with folded hands and see the old land taken by an enemy, see her robbed of her wealth, see our beloved King Edward led off a prisoner as Napoleon the Third was? Are we to stand idly by for five years without doing anything to ward off such a catastrophe? Until that question is answered I feel that I cannot agree with the Bill that is now proposed for our consideration.

After listening to this discourse for a considerable time, I feel it my duty to speak out boldly and freely in regard to a question of such vital importance as the defence and preservation of Canada and of the British empire. I do this the more freely, because I have some suggestions to make which I think might be of use if they were properly considered, but which I fear will scarcely be in accord with the views of either the leader of the government or the leader of the opposition. I may say however, that some of my constituents and many others whose opinions I value very highly, seem to think that my views are sound, safe, economical and businesslike. Of course I may be wrong, but I am open to conviction. Let me say, however, that there must be something more to convince me than mere bald assertions. That has been tried on me already, and it has failed. I must have logical arguments put up to me, arguments founded on known facts and founded on common sense. In the meantime I feel that I would not be doing my duty to my country and to my constituents if I sat silent in this House, and beheld one of the greatest and most far reaching follies that was ever perpetrated in a civilized country enacted before my eyes. My duty becomes doubly imperative when I find that some hon. gentlemen on my own side of the House are inclined