

England on the seas. And, whether we like it or not, we have got to admit this fact. It is not a question of loyalty, it is not a question of saying that we like it or that we do not like it—we have got to acknowledge the fact. Therefore when we see the United States launching her stupendous naval programme, we have to admit that so far as ships and men are concerned the United States will have just as strong, and, perhaps even a stronger navy than England within five years' time. Of course, it is not always the big man who is the best fighter, and we do not know what would be the result of a trial of strength between the two navies. But, nevertheless, we have to admit the fact that to-day the United States are assuming an antagonistic attitude towards England so far as naval strength is concerned.

Mr. CURRIE: What do we care if they are?

Mr. DENIS: When I was interrupted I was developing my point that England will never need our navy, because, unless she is at war with United States, there is no other naval power or combination of naval powers which could for a moment hope to overcome the British navy. For it is inconceivable to suppose that France and Italy, for instance, would unite with Japan against England. Leaving aside the United States, in five years from now the British navy will still be superior to every possible naval combination. Consequently we have these two factors to consider: that if England is ever at war with the weak sea powers she will not need our navy, which, we must admit, would be an infinitesimal quantity; and, if she should be forced into a war with United States, our navy would be at once destroyed and our country would be overrun.

Mr. CURRIE: It is not so.

Mr. DENIS: My hon. friend may say "it is not so", but that does not change the facts.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): Might I ask my hon. friend a question? Does he argue that we should break away from the British Empire? Or even if he does not go so far as that, does he realize that every man, woman and child in the British Isles is being taxed \$10.75 per head for the navy, while this proposal is equivalent to a tax of only 25 cents per head of our

population? What would he do under those circumstances?

Mr. DENIS: I am glad my hon. friend asks me that question, because it only serves to make clear what I have just said. I say that, leaving aside the United States, we are good and ready to do all we can to help England; against the United States we are good and ready to do all we can for England, but we are helpless. The facts are clear and simple, and I submit that I am not laying myself open to any charge of lack of patriotism when I state the facts.

Now, if this be true, I ask: seeing that no permanent naval policy has been adopted by Canada, and seeing that there is to be an Imperial Conference at which the questions I have just submitted will necessarily be discussed and a permanent naval policy decided on, what is the use of embarking on a naval programme at the present time? It is true that this programme is very small, but the proposed expenditure of \$2,000,000 this year, will be so much more next year, and probably will be still further increased the year following, and so on. When we are not in immediate need of a navy, when it might be altogether useless two or three years from now after the Imperial Conference, why spend money now? Why not wait until after the Conference when we shall have a definite policy placed before us?

My hon. friend the minister said a few minutes ago that in 1910 the Laurier Government passed a law to build a navy; and, of course, one might say that the argument I have been advancing would apply with equal force to the navy of 1910. But I submit that that is not so, because in 1910 the conditions were altogether different. The United States were not a first class sea power then as they are now, not by any means.

Mr. GRIESBACH: Oh, yes, the United States navy ranked fifth.

Mr. DENIS: That is far from being a first-class sea power.

Mr. GRIESBACH: The second, third, fourth and fifth naval powers were almost on terms of equality.

Mr. DENIS: At all events, if it were only for the reasons I have just given, I submit that the conditions in 1910 were altogether different from what obtain to-day. In 1910 the menace was the rising sea power of Germany, and Great Britain