

this question of naval defence was secondary. What mandate, therefore, has the present government received from the people? It is hard to say as the voice of the people has been somewhat obscured by the fact that in the race which took place in October, the Conservative party ran two horses, upon this question of the naval defence. I understand that in certain provinces the Laurier government was assailed because in the Navy Act passed by parliament there was a clause which said that the Canadian parliament and the cabinet would have the discretion to put the Canadian Navy in time of war under the British Admiralty. The exercise of such a discretion was deemed disloyal to the empire. It just happened that this was the very clause which was attacked by the Nationalists. They claimed it was a crime to allow the government to put by order in council the Canadian navy at the disposal of the British Admiralty whenever it saw fit to do so. Here were the two horses running for public favour, one northward and the other southward. On the night of the election both horses ran into the same stable. This appeared very extraordinary to the looker-on, to see two wings of a party diametrically opposed to each other on one question yet to be solved finding themselves able to form a cabinet on the night of the victory. Reciprocity had been disposed of but the question of naval defence had to be grappled with. Everyone was surprised that gentlemen who had absolutely turned their backs to each other on this all-important question should be able after the election to join hands when they knew that they could not harmonize their contradictory policies. Will we be told that everything is fair in politics as in love? I charge the Conservative wing of that coalition government, represented by the Prime Minister himself, with having used for all it was worth the Nationalist element wherever it could be effective, and am in a position to affirm that the Conservative organization of Montreal, presided over by a Montreal member of parliament who has the full confidence of the

Prime Minister, paid for the distribution of thousands and thousands of a daily paper called 'Le Devoir,' which was calling upon its readers to vote against the government because the Navy Act contained that clause giving the government power by order in council, to put the Canadian navy under the control of the British Admiralty. This is an important fact, because we may have to examine into the mandate which the present government has to settle this naval question. I shall pass on without examining more closely for the present the under-ground alliance which existed up to the 21st of September, 1911, between the two wings forming the present government. We are told that those two wings will be satisfied this session by the following programme—an emergency grant to please the ultra Imperialists, and a repeal of the Naval Act to satisfy the Nationalists of the province of Quebec. My hon. friend has spoken of a grant and of a Bill which will be brought down to the House as soon as the address is adopted. It will be, I suppose, an emergency grant. On what will that emergency be based? Will it be on the fact that Germany is developing a naval programme? But Germany has been doing so for years and will continue on the same lines for years to come. This does not seem to me to constitute a basis for an emergency grant. That is a permanent condition in Europe which the empire has to face. The great powers are building navies. Austria with her one port on the Adriatic is building a navy. Italy and France are doing likewise. Russia will be building new ships with the financial help of her allies. We are facing a permanent condition. Can that permanent condition be met by a grant? It can only be met by a permanent policy, and we were all agreed in 1909 and 1910 as to what that should be. My hon. friend said Great Britain had reached a point when it could not be expected to defend the whole empire. That is what we thought when we decided unanimously that we should be prepared to protect our own coasts, and lend a helping hand to the Mother Country in time of stress. We all felt that We