

but now I am driven to read my hon. friend's remarks. I made the statement that my hon. friend said that the great business of this country was to protect the industries of this country from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. By means of the British navy.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. I will read my hon. friend's remarks:

We are here to protect the great industries of British Columbia with her total yearly production of \$88,000,000 worth, her fisheries worth between six and seven millions, her mineral production amounting to twenty-three million dollars, her 13,000 men engaged in the fishing industry, and her 9,000 men engaged on the shore fisheries of that province. Then I pass over the Rocky mountains and come to the province of Alberta. We are here to protect the nineteen million bushels of grain that are raised in that province, valued at ten and a half million dollars, and her \$3,000,000 worth of cattle exported from that province last year. Then I pass on into the province of Saskatchewan. We are here to protect the 105 million bushels of grain raised in that province during the last year, and valued at sixty million dollars. I pass onward into the province of Manitoba, and we are here to protect the 113 million bushels of grain raised there, of a value of something like \$50,000,000. I come down into the old province of Ontario with its many agricultural products. We are here to protect the 185 million bushels of field crops grown in that province, to protect its butter, its cheese, its fruit, its cattle that are being exported to Great Britain. Then I come on to the province of Quebec, and we are here to protect its eighty-five million bushels of field crops, to protect its large exports of butter and cheese, to protect its 260 million dollars worth of foreign trade. I pass on to the maritime provinces, and we are here to protect the products of their farms, of their mines and of their fisheries. I pass on to the coast of Nova Scotia, with her unprotected sea coast of 5,600 miles, extending from the Bay of Fundy to the straits of Belle Isle. It is said that the farmers of this country will not sanction any contribution towards the maintenance of a naval force.

What kind of naval force did my hon. friend mean?

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. Will my hon. friend allow me to explain what kind of naval force? Let me read this:

Every Dreadnought of the British navy is a movable fortification. Every Dreadnought can transfer its power from one portion of the British empire to another. Every war vessel is nothing more or less than a species of fortification that can be transferred to any part of the empire in which it is required. That is the strongest kind of portable fortification that any country can have. It therefore behoves us to strengthen the hands of the British government and to give

our contribution towards upholding the British navy.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. Mr. Speaker, experience last night proved that hon. gentlemen opposite are very easily excited. Experience this afternoon proves that hon. gentlemen always act before they think. I was not contending—

Mr. HUGHES. Oh, oh.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. Hon. gentlemen opposite always pass judgment before the truth is told, because they do not like it, especially my hon. friend from Victoria and Haliburton. I was not contending, I could not consistently contend, that the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) was opposed to a contribution to the empire. What I contended was that last year he was in favour of developing a Canadian navy. I was not denying the position that my hon. friend was willing to make a subscription to the British navy. I have asked my hon. friend a question which he has not answered. I could not say that he had an objection to building up the British navy when he is supporting the policy of the leader of the opposition in favour of a contribution of 20 or 25 million dollars. What the hon. gentleman said was this:

It is said that the farmers of Canada might not sanction any contribution towards the maintenance of a naval force.

What naval force?

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. The naval force I referred to is the naval force, a part of the British navy, as recommended by the admiralty.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. My hon. friend has made a very satisfactory explanation, and I am quite right in contending that he was advocating a Canadian naval force, but he says it is the kind of force which the British admiralty recommended. I was not questioning whether he wanted a little or a big one. I was simply declaring that a year ago the hon. gentleman advocated the establishment of a Canadian navy. In a little temper, my hon. friend protested against that statement and his friends around him applauded, but he finally admitted that he did want the establishment of a Canadian navy on the condition that that navy represented the recommendation of the British admiralty. Well, even that is a Canadian navy, and that is what I am talking about.

Now, I wish to say a word about my hon. friend the member for Victoria.

Mr. HUGHES. What Victoria?

Mr. RALPH SMITH. My hon. friend from Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Hughes) wants me to attach too much importance