

of the House do not seem very much inclined to discuss this section. We have had two very interesting speeches from the hon. member for Gloucester and from my hon. friend for Richmond and Wolfe, but they might have been properly made upon the second reading of the Bill, or at all events at an earlier stage of this debate, and these gentlemen will pardon me if I do not make any extended reference to the observations they have placed before the committee. I would like to make a passing allusion to one matter. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe has made it pretty plain I think that the proposal which I made in this Parliament in 1910: that a sufficient sum be provided for two battleships or battle cruisers of the latest type, was placed before the people of the province of Quebec on almost every platform during the last election campaign. I have some evidence of that under my hand which perhaps I may bring to the attention of the House at a later date, but which I will not weary the House with at this moment. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we may very well postpone the further consideration of this—

Mr. GRAHAM: May I ask the right hon. gentleman to not make his motion for a moment as I wish to say a word or two and I know I cannot speak when the motion is made.

Mr. BORDEN: I was about to bring my remarks to a conclusion and I shall be very glad indeed to give the floor to my hon. friend in order that we may hear what observations he has to make.

Mr. GRAHAM: I wanted to point out to my right hon. friend that in all the clauses he has cited of the Canadian Naval Service Act as giving power to the Governor in Council, the Governor in Council could not act where a dollar of money was concerned until it has consulted Parliament. And although these powers had to be given to a particular department to take certain proceedings, as is done in connection with all administrative business of the Government, the minister and the Governor in Council had to come to Parliament for every dollar and had to lay before Parliament the particulars of how they intended to spend that dollar, and then the Governor in Council, as in the case of all other public expenditure, went on with the expenditure. I want further to call the attention of the right hon. gentleman to the fact that one of the chief arguments used by the then Opposition against the Naval Service Act of 1910 was that it provided for a reference of these matters to Parliament.

Mr. BORDEN: I appreciate the importance of what the hon. gentleman has said, but I would like to point out to him that

Mr. BORDEN.

the hon. member for Welland, who has been the spokesman of hon. gentlemen on the other side in regard to this matter, declares that he is willing to make an appropriation under the Naval Service Act at once, and if that appropriation were made all these dreadful powers would be vested in the Governor in Council immediately, and therefore you would have the precise condition which is presented to the committee by this Bill now under consideration. The purpose of this Bill is twofold, namely, to provide an appropriation and also to fix the purpose for which that money is to be expended. My hon. friend from Welland, with the great ability which distinguishes his utterances, has urged that there was a certain control by Parliament under the Naval Service Act of 1910, but I would like to point out to the hon. gentleman that we are not only asking for an appropriation but we are also consulting Parliament as to the purpose for which that appropriation shall be applied. Therefore, Parliament is being consulted as effectually now and as freely as it could be under the provisions of the Naval Service Act of 1910. We have armed ourselves with and given to this committee every reasonable information that could be imagined as to the application of this money. That matter has been gone into with wearisome detail day after day, week after week, month after month. Every possible variety of information has been asked for, and in so far as that information was in the possession of the Government, it has been given freely and without stint. And, as a matter of fact, we know very well (hon. gentlemen opposite do not deny it) that a great deal of information has been asked for merely for the purpose of a party demonstration; I am tempted to say a party game. We understand that perfectly on this side of the House, and it is equally well understood on the other side of the House. There is no departure from constitutional principles in this Bill. We are asking for a sum of money, which according to the contention of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House might be reasonably granted and ought properly be granted by the representatives of the Canadian people in Parliament, for the purpose of rendering two great services to this Empire: in the first place by giving an effective and immediate aid under conditions which have already been dwelt upon over and over again; and in the second place for the purpose of demonstrating to all the nations of the world that if there is to be any assault upon the naval power of Great Britain, upon which depends the existence of this Empire, this Dominion of Canada will stand by the Mother Country in all that makes for the absolute security of this Dominion and the rest