

were not received until after Parliament was dissolved, Mr. Laurier decided to delay action till the result of the election fixed for September 1911, was ascertained.

When Mr. Borden took office in October 1911, he found the tenders waiting for consideration, but declined to carry out the Laurier policy which was, that one or more ships should be built in Canada, according to the tenders submitted. Considering that Mr. Laurier was only in office about a year after the Act of 1910 was passed, it may be fairly said that he showed reasonable activity in carrying out the Act. Mr. Borden has been in office now for nearly twenty (20) months and the only result of his efforts to provide for the defence of the Empire was this emergency Bill, which we are now considering, and Closure to force it through the House of Commons. Had he proceeded under the Act of 1910 we might now have, at least, the nucleus of a promising Canadian Navy.

In his speech on January 12th, 1910, he said:

"I say to my Right Honourable friend, the Prime Minister, so far as my words have any weight with him: do not forget that we are confronted with an emergency which may rend this empire asunder before the proposed service is worthy the name. In the face of such a situation, immediate, vigorous, earnest action is necessary."

Notice this was in January 1910. In September 1911, his party triumphed at the polls, and for nearly two years his hands have hung listlessly by his side and the Empire which was to be rent in twain unless something was done is as much exposed to danger as ever. Is that the way to deal with an emergency?

5. The Borden Bill does not provide for the maintenance of the ships which it proposes to build. Under the Laurier policy the Canadian Navy, whether in the service of Canada or Great Britain, in a case of an emergency, is to be maintained at the expense of the Canadian treasury.

What a policy for the administration of Canada. Empty shells, nothing in them, not even the powder and shot, to be maintained by the British Government. Poor impoverished, empty, pureless Canada sends to Great Britain three empty shells and asks Britain to man them and maintain them at the expense of the British taxpayers, while Canada sits back and keeps out of the way of all harm, ties up her purse strings and says to the British taxpayer. "Here, are these beautiful ships, made in the best shipyards in the country. If you want them to fight, man them yourselves. The guns will not go off of their own accord. We have no money to spend for maintenance, and if we have, we won't give it to you."

6. There is no provision in the Borden Bill for defending the commerce of Canada on the high seas or defending its coasts against hostile invasion.

What would be the consequences if three German fast cruisers came to our coast? One would bottle up the St. Lawrence as tight as any brewer man ever bottled up his ale, and not a Canadian ship could get in or out. Another would bottle up the entrance to the Bay of Fundy which is only fifteen miles wide. Another would bottle up the entrance to Sydney, and that is all the entrances we have open and we would have to go through Portland, New York, or Boston to reach the mother country. More than that, we have a trade of four hundred million of money between Canada and European and British