

Minister is prepared to abandon every one of these pledges made in the West, just as he has abandoned his position on the naval question, I submit he should support the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff). Whatever the Prime Minister may do in that regard, or whatever position he may take with reference to the pledges he made to the people of the West upon that trip, for my part I intend to support this amendment. In the same way, as a Canadian, and for the reasons advanced by the speakers upon this side of the House, I intend to oppose the second reading of this Bill. To my mind there is no stronger reason for doing so than that the right hon. gentleman by abandoning his previous position, has divided public opinion after it was united on this great question. He has divided public opinion not only in Canada, but in Great Britain as well. Let me refer to what took place at a great labour gathering recently held in London. In the special London correspondence of the Globe on February 15, 1913, there appeared this account of the Labour party's conference:

The Labour party conference was an exceedingly interesting gathering, held in Lambeth Baths, in one of the largest industrial centers of London. The conference is a singularly composite body, consisting of members of the Independent Labour party, the Parliamentary Labour party, trades unions, trades councils and the Fabian Society. There is necessarily in such circumstances, great diversity of opinion but in spite of that there was an unusual unanimity about the three days' proceedings, and the desire for unity and for a better understanding with the Liberal party was specially noticeable.

Mr. G. H. Roberts, the Labour member for Norwich, presided, and, in the course of his presidential address, made the following reference to Premier Borden's offer of battleships to the Mother Country:—

Much comment is evoked by Canada's offer to furnish this country with three battleships. Did the Dominion elect to build, man and maintain its own navy we would not interpose. But a gift which greatly adds to our annual expenditure is open to criticism. Accepting Government assurances that our defensive forces are sufficient and efficient, these three vessels must be in excess of requirements. Besides which, giving the colonies representation on the Imperial Defence Committee is a departure fraught with such far-reaching consequences that it must be subjected to searching inquiry. In resisting unnecessary and provocative armaments, which squander wealth otherwise badly needed, we have the glorious consciousness that the future peace, happiness and well-being of the world's millions largely depend on our exertions.

This represents fairly the Labour point of view and the view of most Liberals on the question.

So it is perfectly obvious that my right hon. friend, by pursuing the course that he has adopted, has divided public opinion

not only in this country, but in Great Britain as well, and in doing so he has dealt a fatal blow to the cause of Imperial unity which he and his friends profess to have so much at heart.

I have said that as a Canadian I will oppose this Bill. Let me add that I will oppose it also as a Liberal. In taking that position I have the authority and endorsement of the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, who, in addressing his constituents some years ago, said:

In my judgment a Liberal is a man who ought to stand as a restraining force against an extravagant policy. He is a man who ought to keep cool in the presence of jingo clamour. He is a man who believes that confidence between nations begets confidence, and that the spirit of peace and good will makes the safety it seeks. And above all, I think, a Liberal is a man who should keep a sour look for scaremongers of every kind and every size, however distinguished, however ridiculous—and sometimes the most distinguished are the most ridiculous—a cold, chilling, sour look for all of them, whether that panic comes from the sea, or from the air, or from the earth, or from the waters under the earth.

In that declaration by the present First Lord of the Admiralty there is a noble sentiment, nobly expressed:

The spirit of peace and goodwill makes the safety it seeks.

Mr. Speaker, that is the spirit in which a Canadian naval policy was conceived by a Liberal Government; and it is because we believe that Canada is still animated by that spirit that we are unalterably opposed to the present Bill, and demand that it be submitted to the people in order that they may pass judgment upon it.

#### CAPTAIN AMUNDSEN.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been requested to announce that Captain Amundsen, the celebrated explorer of South-Polar fame, will be in the Speaker's chambers immediately after we now disperse and all members of the House who are desirous of meeting him and making his acquaintance will have an opportunity of doing so.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

#### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I do not think any apology is needed on my part for addressing the House on this subject. The Bill now under discussion is perhaps the most important of any submitted to this House since Confederation.

At the opening of his speech delivered on December 18, 1912, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce said: 'I doubt very