

and if this weary Titian is struggling under the weight of the burden, for God's sake let Canada take some part of the burden and let us relieve her distress, but let us know the reason why. Let there be no secrecy about the fact of the case. Let those men who have hidden in their bosom the cause of her peril and danger not ask this House, nor any House, to vote one dollar or fifteen million dollars until they have made it as plain as a sunbeam that the empire is in danger. If the empire is in danger Canada is in danger, and Canada will have no hesitation to come to the rescue to the best of her ability, but only on a proof that the necessity has occurred, and that the consequences of refusal will be most serious. That is my view of a grant. I am prepared to give everything that is required to save the situation, but I must know what it is, and I would tell the leader of the House that when the Bill comes down he must disclose to us what are the dangers to be encountered. We must know the reason why the forces should be strengthened without delay and why at this juncture it is the duty of Canada to render reasonable and necessary aid. Notice the word juncture. That means that there is a conjunction of circumstances.

They may not have ever occurred before. They existed when this speech was brought down. They may not exist to-morrow. What is the conjunction? Is there a league of Europe against us? Is the unmeasured and immeasurable power of Germany against her? Let us know in language unmistakable, and let the people of Canada, if asked to vote their money, do it, as I am sure they will, with the utmost readiness, provided the occasion requires it. But that is not all I want to say upon the question of naval defence. Do the members of this honourable House believe that an emergency grant, be it ever so large, is the best way to defend the empire, or to defend Canada? I admit that a grant in an emergency is an exceptional thing. The blind man standing by the wayside receives a sixpence in his tin cup, and for the moment that is the best that you can do for him, but if

you are going to provide against his poverty and for his future comfort you must provide more. A naval policy on the basis of this speech is no policy at all. It is not a policy, it is a grant—an offering, a contribution. It is the money in the hat or the money in the blind man's tin cup. It is generous, kind and charitable, but England does not want charity.

A minister has said somewhere during the summer, I do not know that I could name the minister, although I have a vague suspicion that I know who he was, and somewhere, I do not know just where, that England was on her knees. If she is on her knees let us help her at once, and if it take a few millions to get her on her feet, let us place her there by all means. If she is on her knees, it is the first time in the history of Great Britain that she ever was. At one time she met a combination of every European power, from Blenheim down to Waterloo, and she never went on her knees to anybody, but planted her flag wherever the sun shone, on every parallel of latitude, exacted tribute from every nation on the globe, sailed the seven seas, and never bowed her head in submission to any kingdom, principality or power, and she is not going to do it now. That is my opinion, but I do not know as much as ministers know.

I am unfortunately ignorant. I had no conference with His Majesty's government in London. Nothing was disclosed to me. I am speaking without any information. Nobody has taken me into his confidence. I am very much at sea. In fact I have almost some justification for feeling offended. Every member of the Senate may have some justification, but after a while when the box will be opened and the secret will be out we will know the basis of this great policy, and we will be asked to exercise our judgment in regard to it, not in a political or party or penurious sense, but in that generosity which characterized Canada in all these matters. But I was going to say this is not the naval policy, it is a generous contribution. What is our naval policy? The policy that was on the statute-book. It is a policy which means something. It is the foundation of a navy which under proper circumstances will grow to be a