

that proper means would be taken to protect them in case of attack, because it is admitted that in time of war that part of the country would be the first attacked.

I have no hesitation to affirm that without such promises Confederation would never have been realized. And that is why due care has been taken to introduce into the Constitution the necessary powers for the organization of our own defence.

Our predecessors in the administration of public affairs have begun, Mr. Speaker, with the organization of our land militia, so as to put to execution the public will, as expressed in the general elections of 1867.

From year to year, Mr. Speaker, that service of land defence has been improved, and we are still taking the necessary means to improve it.

We should do the same thing, Mr. Speaker, for the defence of the country, through the organization of a naval service, which has been inaugurated in 1868, but has been rather neglected until to-day. In fact, since then, no thought has been given to the creation of a military service, and in my opinion the time has now come to start the efficient organization of our naval defence.

Such a manner of aiding the British Empire is not, in my sense, the most efficient, and in support of my opinion I may quote many eminent men. It would be better to put to practical use the advice of one of those experts who has passed through Canada a few years ago. I am speaking of Lord Milner, when he was giving us the following advice which, according to Mr. Monk, is the only right that we have.

But, before quoting Lord Milner, and before giving you the opinion of that eminent man, let me cite you a very important man in this country, one who has occupied an eminent position in the present Government and who has seen fit to resign his functions last fall, because, as he has declared, the policy of the Premier was contrary to the Constitution of this country. I mean the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, the ex-Minister of Public Works. This is what he was saying, a short time ago, in an interview he had given:

By the terms of the Constitution itself, our Parliament has no other powers than those permitting the organization of defence in Canada.

And again, he says:

By virtue of our Constitution, Canada is not legally nor morally bound to contribute to the navy of the Empire, and that situation will continue to exist so long as the United Kingdom will have exclusively the direction of Foreign Affairs.

Such is the opinion, Mr. Speaker, of a man for whom you have much esteem, of a man you have followed in past struggles, whom you have admired, and for whom, I

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have no doubt, you still have admiration. In the same interview, Mr. Monk said again:

Any arrangement which would not ensure for the colonies an adequate representation would infallibly result in conflicts and lead to definitive separation.

I agree entirely with the hon. member for Jacques Cartier when he says that the policy of the present Government, in sending 35 millions of the hard-earned people's money, to be applied to the defence of a country other than Canada, is liable to destroy our autonomy, and will lead infallibly to conflicts and to definitive separation.

Let me also quote you, Mr. Speaker, the opinion of another man who occupies a very important position in the public affairs of this country, and who, I think, was also concurring in the opinion of the member for Jacques Cartier. I allude to yourself, Mr. Speaker, when you were making the following declaration in this House, on the 1st of March, 1910:

Much as I regret it, I feel that I am bound to protest loudly both against the policy of the Government and against that of my own party as regards the question of creating a Canadian-Imperial war fleet or of making a cash contribution.

Such was the language delivered by the hon. member, because, at the time, the creation of an Imperial navy had been decided. And he added:

In rising to concur in the amendment moved by the hon. member for Jacques-Cartier asking that the question be submitted to the people before the Government solves this matter, I am fully confident that I am merely ruled by my regard for the people and the institutions of this country, as the hon. member himself was.

I am now coming to that great personage who is called Lord Milner, who came to Canada in 1909 or 1910, and who gave his opinion on our means of defence, not only in Canada but in all the colonies of the British Empire itself.

In a speech delivered at Vancouver, he expressed himself as follows:

I have said that Canada is not unique in being a great country. But she is unique in being one of a group of countries which has a strong foothold in every corner of the world. That group only needs to hold together and to be properly organized, in order to command, with a comparatively small cost to its individual members all the credit and all the respect, and, therefore, all the power and all the security which credit and respect alone can give a native among the nations of the world. No doubt Canada, if she is to take her place in such a union, will have to develop, as I believe she will desire to develop, her own fighting strength. But not to a greater extent than would be necessary in any case for the adequate development of Canadian self-respect, or beneficial to the man-