

ing shoulder to shoulder with their comrades of the British Empire for the noble cause of liberty, 60,000 of our young men fell on the battlefields. They sleep "in the plains of Flanders where the poppies grow." No one need be humiliated when one realizes the manly support, which the yeomanry of Canada have given and would be ready to give to-morrow under the same circumstances to the Mother Country. Sir, Canada has done her share, she would do her share to-morrow if the same emergency, if the same danger should arise. But Canada fought a war which was to end all wars. The Allies have defeated, if I mistake not, the most rampant of all militarisms, past and present. In humbling Kaiserism destroyed and the spirit which the sabre rattlers of Berlin, they have it represented in this modern world; and probably the saddest day in German history, Sir, was the day when Admiral Beatty met on the high seas the remnant of the German Navy surrendering to the mighty British sea power. Mr. Chairman, where is the danger, where is the menace? The Allies have obliterated the menace, have defeated militarism, there is no German navy, and between the Allies there is a solidarity which will hold for all time to come. Besides, we are told that Canada has acquired a new status. She was represented at the Paris Conference. She was a party to a Treaty of Peace and to a covenant—a covenant which has established a League of Nations whose chief object is to prevent the wars of the future. I say therefore there is no danger, there is no menace, there is no cloud on the horizon. There is no necessity—no pressing necessity for this navy when the people of Canada are being taxed and overtaxed to pay the expenditures of the war, the pension bills. Why spend money and dash it away—to use the expression of an hon. member opposite? Canada is a member of the League of Nations and the member for St. Antoine (Sir Herbert Ames) the other evening asked the House of Commons—Aye, Sir, and he is asking the Canadian people, addressing himself to Boards of Trade and to Canadian Clubs,—to believe in the reality of the League of Nations. For him it is not a sham institution. He knows whereof he speaks; and he has been influential enough to obtain from this Government the amount which has been put in the estimates—and for which I shall vote with pleasure—the amount of \$250,000 as our first contribution to the League of Nations. Mr. Chairman, why

[Mr. Lemieux.]

should we be up against any resurrection of armaments and Militarism? Militarism is a growing illness. It starts first of all very mildly but it grows very rapidly. I remember the words spoken by the late Prime Minister of England, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Speaking on question of the decrease of naval armaments on the part of Great Britain he said:

I hold that the growth of armaments is a great danger to the peace of the world. A policy of huge armaments keeps alive and stimulates and feeds the belief that force is the best, if not the only, solution of international differences. It is a policy that tends to inflame old sores and to create new sores.

Mr. Chairman, I am opposed,—as a Canadian, as a free British subject, considering well the actual position of Canada as regards her national finances—to this policy at the present time. When we have reached normal conditions again, I will stand, as I have always stood, for a Canadian navy, manned by Canadian sailors, built by Canadian mechanics and, Sir, flying the Canadian flag alongside the British ensign, defending the coasts of Canada and maintaining the honour of this Dominion on the high seas. Think for a moment of our national debt, of the interest charges, of the pension list, and we have the best of reasons to postpone the voting of this money. And, Sir, there is the very reason given by the Minister of Naval Affairs, that an Imperial Conference is being summoned for next year when this question will be possibly—I should say certainly—the first, or the most important, topic to be discussed during the debates that will take place. Then should we not wait until that Conference is summoned, until the members sit around the council table? That would be a very wise thing to do it seems to me. I am surprised that a good Anglo-Saxon like my hon. friend, a matter-of-fact business man such as he is, should rush towards the exchequer and get all money he can before the very principle which might call for that expenditure has been debated and decided in the cold atmosphere of a conference. Mr. Chairman, I say, let us wait until the Conference has met. As a Canadian—nay more, as a Britisher—I say further that no decision (much as I have regard for the ability of my hon. friend, much as I respect the Prime Minister of Canada) should be taken on behalf of Canada by the Imperial Conference without that policy being submitted to the representatives of the