

tion of our public revenue and hand it over to the imperial government. And it seems to me that the dangers that would be involved in such a confusion of authority afford the best reason for not venturing upon so unusual an experiment.

I think that the Bill introduced by the leader of the government best expresses what is in the interests of the people of Canada and of the empire. I do trust and hope that circumstances in international affairs may take such a line that it will not be necessary that we should construct any considerable number of ships. But one thing is certain—that, while we will not join in any imperial policy of aggression, while we will not back up any policy which seeks to infringe upon the rights of other nations of the earth, we in Canada will always be ready to yield up every ounce of our influence and every bit of our resources for the maintenance of the great empire to which we belong. We should be lacking in the self-respect which must be the attribute of a great and free people if we were not ready to sacrifice ourselves in order to defend our institutions.

I was struck with a statement in the work of Jane on 'Heresies of Sea Power,' to which I before referred in discussing this matter. There are some gentlemen possessed with the idea—and they hold it as though it were a political axiom—that sea power has always dominated the world, and that the nation that has the sea power is bound to be the dominating nation. Jane points out that if you follow the course of history you learn that this idea is absolutely unfounded; there are as many cases in the history of the world in which the nation having no knowledge of sea power, no possession of sea power, has conquered as there are instances in which the nation possessed of that power has conquered. If you go back to the old struggle between the Athenians and the Spartans, you find that the Athenians were the finest seamen, while the Spartans knew nothing of seamanship; yet the Spartans had the fighting qualities and they won out. Then when we come down to the wars between Carthage and Rome we find that, though Carthage had inherited the great sea skill of the Phoenicians, and, at the time when the wars opened actually commanded the sea, and though the Romans did not even know how to build a ship until some unfortunate Carthaginian ran ashore and furnished them with a model, yet the result of the Punic wars was the complete conquest of Carthage by Rome.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That did not take place until the Romans had become dominant on the sea.

Mr. CONGDON. I do not understand—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Rome first acquired the dominion of the sea, and it was for

that reason that Hannibal had to march through Spain and over the Alps.

Mr. CONGDON. But does my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) mean to say that the Carthaginians had not command of the sea for the first, the second—

Mr. HUGHES. They lost command of the sea in the first Punic war.

Mr. CONGDON. I confess, I cannot understand the interruption. The assertion with which I started was that the nation that had the great sea power met the nation that had no sea power and was ultimately defeated and conquered. My hon. friend points out, in objection, that the nation that had the sea power at first afterwards lost that sea power. It lost it because the nation with which it came into conflict was the greater nation, with the greater courage.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did not wish to interrupt the hon. gentleman (Mr. Congdon), but, on the other hand, I do not wish him to misunderstand me. What I said was that Rome did not conquer Carthage until she had acquired dominion of the sea.

Mr. CONGDON. That is quite immaterial to my argument. Of course, I do not object to the interruption, but it is quite immaterial to me to fix the exact time when the sea-power passed from Carthage to Rome. It is undoubtedly the fact that, in the commencement, all the sea-power was with Carthage while Rome had none. I am coming simply to this, that it is not the possession of ships or any of these things that determines ultimately the conquering powers of a race, fitness to win is the determining factor. As Mr. Jane says: It is not ships or the ability to handle them, it is not great commanders or ready obedience, but the sum of the sentiment of every individual combatant. What I urge is that if in Canada we conduct ourselves in such a way as to build up a free democracy, a democracy that does not need a large standing army in order to stimulate a martial spirit, that does not need any of these adventitious aids to martial spirit, we shall be able to protect ourselves, come what may in our future. I believe we should possess the spirit pictured by Caesar as possessed by one of his lieutenants. He tells in the story of the great and terrible revolt of the Gauls, how one of his lieutenants, in dire distress, had surrendered and was butchered with all his followers. Labienus was in equal straits, but, says Caesar, in splendid praise of his bitter enemy of later years: In these difficulties he took counsel from the valour of his mind. Difficulties and dangers may assail the Canadian people, but if we see that we build up in this country a vigor-