

That would be more popular than building dreadnoughts. If you cannot do that, go on and spend the \$35,000,000 on a Canadian navy. I am sure that we can all agree on such a policy, and it will then go out to the world that the Canadian Parliament and people are united upon the policy of building a navy for their own defence, and, in time of need, for the defence of the Empire.

Mr. BORDEN: I am very glad indeed that the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Tobin) has been restored to his usual good health, and I am very grateful for any certificate of character that he may have given to me on any occasion. His observations did not seem to have any particular relevancy to the amendment which the hon. member for Welland (Mr. German) had moved, and the same is true of the very eloquent speech which was addressed to the committee by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Turgeon). So I think my hon. friend from Welland must be duly grateful to me for being the only one in the House who is willing to pay any attention to his amendment. The hon. member for Welland has not got over his horror at the powers which are conferred upon the Governor in Council by this Bill. I am afraid that my hon. friend has not the acquaintance with all the provisions of the Naval Service Act of 1910 which he has manifested with regard to certain of those provisions. I have alluded to some of these already, and I shall only make a passing reference to them again. He will find that, by section 7 of the Act, the minister has power to deal with the

—purchase, maintenance and repair of the ordnance, ammunition, arms, armouries, stores, munitions and habiliments of war intended for the use of the naval service.

That must be a dreadful shock to my hon. friend, because the representatives of the people are not to be consulted at all. It is all to be done by the minister. My hon. friend may speak of the days of 1837, but is there anything in 1837 that is quite equal to this outrage which we find in section 7? Further on it is provided that:

The minister shall have the control and management, including the construction, purchase, maintenance and repair, of naval establishments and of ships and other vessels for the naval service.

According to the view of my hon. friend, that also is an outrage. But let me direct attention to another departure from the well understood principles of constitutional government as evidenced by that Bill which he admires so warmly. Section 11:

The Governor In Council may organize and maintain a permanent naval force.

Not Parliament, but the Governor in Council, may do that. Section 12:

The Governor in Council may authorize the engagement of officers and seamen in the naval service upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

That would seem to me, according to the view which my hon. friend from Welland has supported, to be a very marked departure from the ordinary, well-understood principles of constitutional government. Then section 26 provides that:

The Governor in Council may organize and maintain a force to be called the Naval Volunteer Force.

Section 28 says that:

The Governor in Council may make regulations for the government of the Naval Volunteer Force.

Think of all the tyrannical dispositions that could be made by the Governor in Council under the very wide powers that are set out by section 28. The liberties of the people might be taken away, according to the views of my hon. friend from Welland, by the regulations which may be made for the government of the force. I will pass over several others. There are all these and many other powers conferred on the Governor in Council by this Act, and, being impressed for the moment by the views of the hon. member for Welland, I am positively shocked when I come to read them one after the other. I would especially draw the attention of my hon. friend to section 43:

The Governor in Council may from time to time transfer to or from the naval service any vessel belonging to His Majesty.

That would permit the Governor in Council to acquire the whole British navy and thus impose upon the people of this country the duty of maintaining it for all years to come; and that without any consultation whatever with Parliament. I am sure my hon. friend (Mr. German) when he comes to realize the tremendous powers that are conferred, not only by this but by many other sections of the Act, upon the Governor in Council, will either revise his ideas as to the excellence of that Bill or revise his idea as to what is embodied in ordinary well-understood principles of constitutional government.

My hon. friend was apparently not reassured by my statement as to promises with regard to the naval policy of this country. If it were necessary for me to impress him, that I should shake my fist and speak in a very loud voice I would be glad to do so, but I trust my hon. friend will be good enough to accept that assurance conveyed to him in an ordinary tone of voice and without any theatrical demonstration. My hon. friends on the other side