

dian navy is concerned, and his explanation now to the House, that he would be glad to support a policy if it came up to his ideas of what ought to be done is not consistent with his expressed intention of voting for something that is absolutely nothing. I do not quite understand why my hon. friend objects.

Mr. SPROULE. I ask my hon. friend if he does not exercise the same right himself with regard to questions coming before this House. If they do not meet with his approval he does not support them?

Mr. RALPH SMITH. Of course I do, but I am trying to point out that an hon. gentleman who says that he does not want a thing is not quite the man to reason as to what the thing ought to be; he is committing himself to contradictory positions. The hon. gentleman has announced that he intends to support the amendment of the leader of the opposition. If he intends to support a policy with regard to what a navy ought to be, why does he tell the country that he does not want a navy at all?

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman is doing an injustice, because if he read or listened to my speech carefully, he would see that I said that provided a policy was evolved by the government and submitted to the people for their approval, and they approved of it, I would certainly fall in with it.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. The strange thing about my hon. friend's conclusion is that he wants to submit a Canadian proposition to the people for their approval, but he is willing to tax them and send away their money without asking their opinion; yet he says to the House: I am quite willing to support a navy if you are willing to submit the question to the people. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the policy of establishing a Canadian navy is part and parcel of the great work of development in this country. If it is a reasonable thing for Canada to build railways from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and to transport the products of this country to foreign lands, but principally to Great Britain, is it not equally reasonable that these products should be protected on the high seas? If it is reasonable to open mines, to build factories and railways, to bring population into the country, to develop the country to such an enormous extent as we are doing, does my hon. friend consider it unreasonable that we should commence, perhaps in a small way, but as soon as possible to provide ourselves with the means of protecting in some measure the trade of this country and of supplementing the navy of the empire at some future day when a more

Mr. RALPH SMITH.

serious emergency arises than any that exists to-day?

I do not intend to read any more of the speech of my hon. friend from North Grey (Mr. Middlebro). But he spoke of the magnificent productions of British Columbia, and Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and Ontario, and Quebec, and New Brunswick, and that important province down by the sea, the province of Nova Scotia, and asked if hon. gentlemen did not consider that these were the things we ought to protect, and if this was not a reason why we ought to commence as soon as possible to provide for a Canadian navy.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. I beg to differ with the hon. gentleman in his interpretation of my speech. I have the speech before me, I have read it over and I entirely agree with everything in that speech. I will just read an extract from it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. With the permission of the hon. gentleman. If he does not want it, of course, I will not do it. I am making a personal explanation. The hon. gentleman has said that my speech of last year indicated that I was in favour of a Canadian navy. I will read an extract from my speech to show my position.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. I do not think my hon. friend is entitled to get up and read from his speech; I can read it for myself.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. I ask the hon. gentleman this question: Does he now say that my speech of last year indicated that I was in favour of a Canadian navy; and if he does, will he allow me to quote my own speech to show that that is not true?

Mr. RALPH SMITH. If I made the statement that my hon. friend said so then, I ought to be allowed, as having the floor, to prove my statement. I do not see why my hon. friend should be so extremely anxious to read his own speech. I wanted to save the House trouble and save myself annoyance. What I do say is that my reading of the speech led to the conclusion that the protection of the great resources of this country, which were being developed from the Pacific to the Atlantic, was the great question to be considered.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. Now, will the hon. gentleman just allow me to read? I think that is only fair.

Mr. SPEAKER. Of course, the hon. member for Nanaimo has the floor, and cannot be interrupted.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to take up so much time,