

two cruisers, Niobe and Rainbow, whilst four cruisers and six destroyers have been authorized by Parliament.

So far back as August of 1910 it was announced that these vessels would be built by contract and that tenders would shortly be called for. It is now the last half of 1911 and the contract has not yet been awarded.

The conditions are that the first cruiser is to be delivered in three years from the date of signing the contract, whilst the total of four are to be completed in six years from that date.

On reference to the Admiralty return it is found that the Weymouth type of cruiser which is similar to the type to be built by Canada was launched in 1910, and is now ready to be commissioned. The earliest that the first cruiser for Canada can be expected, supposing the contract to be awarded without further delay is the latter part of 1914; in other words this type of vessel will be four years old before it is completed, whilst the last will be seven years old, and rapidly approaching the stage of obsolescence.

Mr. GERMAN: To whom is that report made, at whose request does Commander Roper make that report? He, as an officer of the department is not making the report voluntarily; who asked for that report?

Mr. HAZEN: That is the very point raised by my hon. friend from Rouville, and if the hon. gentleman (Mr. German) had possessed his soul in patience for a moment, he would hear what I have to say in regard to that. My hon. friend from Rouville, realizing what a tremendous indictment the memorandum is of the delay which occurred in carrying out the naval policy of the late Government, made the statement to this House last night that the report was a concocted report, and the hon. gentleman repeated that expression again this afternoon. The word 'concocted' carries with it the idea that something has been cooked up; that there has been a scheme or a conspiracy, and the word 'concocted' used in connection with this report without explanation, would infer that in some way or other this report was devised as a scheme for the purpose of influencing the people of the country against the late Administration and probably in order to influence the present debate. My hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) to-night very candidly stated, and I accept the statement in the spirit in which it was tendered, that he did not mean to imply that I as Minister of the Naval Department had any hand in concocting that report. Still he alleged that it was a concocted report, and the word 'concocted' conveys the idea that something was cooked up or patched up; that there was a scheme or conspiracy; that the report was not a bona fide one; that it was not made for a bona fide or proper purpose, but that it was made for some improper purpose. What are the

facts? Having regard to the fact that Commander Roper is a gentleman who occupies a position in the navy, who wears His Majesty's uniform, who has a naval record of which he has a right to be proud, it is only fair and proper and right that the facts in connection with that memorandum should be plainly placed before the House and the country. My hon. friend from Rouville referred to the matter of this report once before.

In the first place I would point out that Commander Roper was not brought from England to take charge of Canadian Naval affairs. Various naval officers, including Commander Roper, were lent by the Admiralty to assist in the organization of the Canadian navy under Admiral Kingsmill.

Secondly, the member for Rouville states that Commander Roper and Admiral Kingsmill gave their full accord to the policy of the late Government; but they were not consulted with regard to the policy of the Government; the policy was formulated by the Government, after which they used their best endeavours to carry out the necessary work of organization. Further, it was not under the advice of Admiral Kingsmill and Commander Roper that the tenders were called for, nor did they prepare the notices for the tenders, as has been stated in this House time and again without a title of authority for the statement is in absolute defiance of the facts. The knowledge of construction which they do not possess.

I desire to place upon the records of the House a memorandum showing what Commander Roper's connection was with the memorandum to which I have referred. My hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) or my hon. friend from Pictou (Mr. Macdonald)—I forget which—stated that this memorandum was dated the 21st of September. When I called attention to the fact that he was mistaken and that it was dated the 20th of September, the answer was made that it was a most extraordinary thing that this memorandum was dated the day before the election and that it was past comprehension that that date was correct.

I want to place on 'Hansard' a memorandum showing exactly what the facts are. I have taken every possible means of verifying this statement. I believe it to be accurate in every respect. It is as follows:

Commander Roper was lent to Canada by the Admiralty for the purpose of assisting in the organization of a Canadian naval force. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the work and did his best to make it a success. In the first half of 1911, however, he became