

glad to fill them. I refer to the young lads of seventeen and eighteen years of age who joined the armed forces and were not engaged in any particular work before enlistment.

At the time the naval estimates were before our committee I was unfortunately unable to be present to discuss a question raised as to the construction of the Tribal Class of destroyers at Halifax. The Deputy Minister, Mr. W. G. Mills, in reply to a question said that one of the Tribal Class of destroyers now in commission cost \$6,000,000. The same type of destroyer, according to his statement, could have been built in the United Kingdom for \$3,500,000. Please understand, honourable senators, that I do not pose as an authority on naval construction. The views I am about to advance are based on information that I obtained when, a good many years ago, I was a member of the Montreal Harbour Commission. A Liberal government was in power at the time. The Honourable Mr. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, asked me, together with Sir Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia, to accompany him to England to try to induce the Vickers Company to establish a shipbuilding plant at Montreal on some thirty-eight acres of land that the Harbour Commission had just reclaimed from the bed of the river. I am very glad to say that, largely through the influence of that able Minister, Mr. Brodeur, a contract was signed, and this country has been benefited by having the Canadian Vickers operating here ever since. At that time the question of constructing naval vessels was thoroughly gone into. The Vickers Company said it would be impracticable to build naval vessels in Canada, because the cost would be too high, we having neither the men nor the materials necessary for the purpose. As Naval Minister I attended the Imperial Conferences of 1918 and 1921. The question of building naval ships in Canada was threshed out with the Sea Lords. I also discussed the matter with those two famous men of the British Navy, the late Admiral Beatty and the late Admiral Jellicoe.

The former Minister of Naval Affairs, Mr. Macdonald, announced the policy of the Government to have naval vessels built in Canada. I have the highest regard for him, and at this point I pay my tribute to the development and expansion of the Canadian Navy under his administration. Our young men from the farms, factories and places of business were eager to enlist, and during the war the total personnel reached 95,000. They distinguished themselves in every engagement with the enemy, and their heroism and skill won the admiration of their comrades of the British Navy.

I have always been interested in Canada having a Navy. Since Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced the Navy Bill in 1911, our naval service has had a checkered career; but now it is established on a firm basis, and I am pleased to note that we are to have a permanent naval force of 10,000 men.

But to come back to the building of the Tribal Class of destroyers. When in 1941 the policy was first announced by the former Minister I stated in this Chamber that it would be a mistake for Canada to try to construct destroyers of this large type, armed as they are with four and six-inch guns, anti-aircraft guns and torpedoes. I suggested to him that as cargo ships were very urgently needed, we could build five of them for the cost of one Tribal Class destroyer. The honourable leader of the Government will correct me if I am wrong, but I am under the impression that three or four more of this class of destroyers are to be constructed. I do hope the Government will cancel the contracts. Most of the destroyers and cruisers have been either bought from the United Kingdom or received from that country as a free gift. The two destroyers that arrived on the Pacific Coast a few days ago are much more modern in their equipment than the Tribal destroyers being built at Halifax, one of which has already been finished. For that reason and for the sake of economy the Government would be well advised to proceed no further with the construction of that class of vessel. Many millions of dollars could be saved there.

I come now to the general picture. Canada faces difficult times and the outlook is not too bright, but I hope our people will display the same morale and will-power that they did during the war. In wartime morale is essential, not alone for the armed forces, but for each and every citizen. The high morale of our people during the war greatly helped to defeat both Germany and Japan.

But there is no high morale on the part of our business people or of Canadians in general to-day. Instead, there is apathy. One commonly hears it said: "With all these controls and taxes, what's the use?" Therefore I hope that in the very near future the Government will relax more controls and still further reduce taxes. The unemployment situation is not good at present, but I do not blame the Government for that. In the country as a whole the number of people out of work is at least 200,000, and that number will increase, principally because of the transition from wartime to peacetime industry. But the Government could stimulate trade and encourage industry, large and small, by giving business people cause to hope that they can