

were routed by the Huntingdon farmers. Besides our ships would be such small ones that they dare not go within range of the enemy. A small ship carrying light guns is to-day absolutely useless, because their guns will reach only five or six miles, while the 12 or 16 inch guns on the larger vessels, can be effective for a distance of 15 miles.

My hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, has proposed a policy which will give automatic assistance to the mother country. More than that, our vessels, officered and manned under our policy, will be trained in the British navy, whereas under the policy of the government they would not. Our policy would make them ready to fight at a moment's notice, which would not be the case under the government's policy. The right hon. the Prime Minister himself has said that the United States is the only enemy with whom we might possibly fight. But there is no chance of the United States and this country ever coming to a quarrel. Reference has been made to the fact that the Americans have training ships along the inland lake. Well, so far as I am concerned, I would be delighted to see an American training ship at every large American port on our inland lakes and a Canadian training ship at every port on the Canadian side. What difference would it make? If war came it would make no difference, but war is absolutely impossible between these two nations. When Britain and her colonies are incorporated together, I look to an offensive and defensive alliance being reached between Britain and the United States and possibly France, Japan, which will guarantee the peace of the world for years to come; and I think that the right hon. the Prime Minister was very impolitic in his suggestion that the United States is the only nation he could think of against which he would allow his ships to go and fight.

Now, I come to the great material difference between the two policies. Under the policy of the leader of the opposition, the Union Jack would fly from these ships; under the policy of the government the Union Jack would not fly from these ships.

Mr. FOWKE. What would fly?

Mr. HUGHES. I am just going to explain the position to the hon. member. In a memorandum on page 24 of the Defence Conference report is found this paragraph:

The question of the flag was also discussed, and it was arranged that the admiralty would give the matter consideration and would communicate its views at a later date to the Canadian government.

What need was there for discussing the flag? The fact is that the old Union Jack flies over the parliament of Canada—and

Mr. HUGHES.

a number of us intend that it shall long fly there. And it would be sufficient to have the old Union Jack flying from the Canadian fleet in case one should be constructed. I should be glad if the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) had been here, or some member of the government who knew something about this question, to tell us what is meant by that paragraph in this report that 'the question of the flag was also discussed.' Perhaps the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) could tell us?

Mr. FIELDING. I am not making the speech, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HUGHES. Is the hon. minister listening to the speech?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes, every word. I know all about the old flag.

Mr. HUGHES. What we want to know is that the old flag shall fly.

Mr. FIELDING. We will look after that.

Mr. HUGHES. I can give the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) a guarantee that there are lots of the boys who will look after it if he does not. If he does not do it willingly, he will do it anyhow—he will go as the fellow went with the bayonet behind him. The policy of the Conservative party is that the old flag shall fly, and the policy of the government is that the old flag shall not fly.

Mr. FIELDING. If my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) knows, why does he ask me?

Mr. HUGHES. I want to commit the minister. But it seems impossible to get these gentlemen committed. They plead the equivocal. They say: We will look after that—and when the time comes they do not look after it. But, leave non-essentials aside, and let there be fair warning that, when the hour arrives, the old flag is going to fly.

Canada cannot declare war, there is no doubt about that; she is not a nation, not even a sister nation, and she cannot declare war, and rightly so. Nor can she prevent her people from taking part in the defence of the empire. No matter what the orders may be from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, neither he nor any other power in Canada has authority to prevent the Canadian who wishes to do so from serving the empire. In peace or war, the Canadian flag has no authority beyond the three-mile limit, and is not recognized beyond that. Suppose that war were to break out, and one of our ships were down in South American waters, or in the Mediterranean—

An hon. MEMBER. How could it get so far?

Mr. HUGHES. Suppose it were towed there, or engineered somehow. If war were to break out at that time, what would hap-