

ference and to the Hague Conference which is to be held, said:

You must remember that a few weeks ago there were armies massing on frontiers extending over thousands of miles with every evident intention of marching against each other, and the whole centre of Europe was in a state of fear and trembling because they were expecting the march of these armies and a renewal of the terrible conflicts of the last few years. By the Genoa conference the march of these armies has been arrested, and I believe that an order will never be given for a single battalion to go forward.

Let me draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that the march of these armies has been arrested for a period of eight months. That is all that any nation in Europe is committed to do; and if that was the state of affairs two months ago; if all they have been able to do by a conference of two months is to enter into an armistice or a truce for eight months, I think we must regard the situation as one of very great seriousness—certainly one which does not justify this country in destroying what little naval establishment we have.

I am not a militarist, Mr. Chairman, but I hope I am a self-respecting citizen of Canada who is prepared to do his part in defending his country; and I believe that is the attitude of the people of this country generally. For that reason I believe they will not be content with the appropriation which has been made, and the plans which have been outlined, for carrying on our small naval operations. It is not a question of economy, because I think I can convince the committee that more money is being expended in ways that are entirely unnecessary than has been cut off these estimates.

My hon. friends to the left, a short time ago, went down to the city of Quebec. I do not know who was the personal conductor of that expedition, but I understand the purpose of it was to convince those hon. members that an expenditure of a million and a half for improvements to Quebec harbour was a wise and necessary expenditure. Well, I was greatly interested upon their return from Quebec to hear one of these hon. members stand up and say he did not at all approve of extending the facilities there, because the existing facilities were sufficient to handle twice the amount of business that was done last year or that will be done this season. I point out there a wasteful expenditure of at least a million and a half of dollars on the harbour of Quebec. I have no objection to an ex-

penditure of \$5,000,000 on the harbour of Montreal, because I believe that additional facilities, especially for loading and unloading, are required there. I think that, perhaps, is an expenditure that can be justified and which is reasonable in its character, but why this House should spend a million and a half dollars on unnecessary work and cut a million and a half of dollars off the naval estimates is something I cannot understand and something, I think, which will not be justified by the people of this country. We must either make it plain that we are going to adopt efficient action, or else do nothing at all. It cannot be argued that this reduction has been made on the score of economy. I want to make my protest against wasteful expenditures of the kind alluded to and the cutting off of necessary expenditure such as we find here in this particular branch of the service. As my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Church) said a few moments ago, there has been a large amount of money spent, and a very large organization created, in this country for the development of any naval talent, or desire for naval service, that may be latent in the youths of the country. That work has been accomplished by voluntary contributions and expenditure. In many points in Canada the Navy League is developing what talent or inclination there may be for naval service among our boys, and they hope to direct that talent or inclination to the service of the country. What inducement is there for them to go on and spend money collected from private sources on a service of that kind if we are going to cut out and destroy the naval establishment we have had in the past? I submit, the Government is making a great mistake; and they will be apprised of that in an unmistakable manner by the Canadian public when the time comes. I want to join my hon. friend from North Toronto in registering a protest against the destruction of the naval service of this Dominion.

Mr. J. H. MACKELVIE (Yale): I would like to ask the minister if he has fully taken into consideration the responsibility which, I think he must admit falls to some degree upon the Government with respect to the students who have taken a course in the naval college, and some of whom, perhaps, have put in two, if not three, years in that institution. These lads have selected the navy as their career; they certainly entered the institution with the idea that