

Canadian Navy

In only seventy-six years Canada has raised herself to the outstanding position she occupies to-day in the concert of nations; it is a miracle accomplished by her great people and by her leaders, and I can assure you that we Brazilians look to her with the proud admiration that a member of a same family has for the successes of another member.

The President of Brazil also sent the following message to His Excellency the Governor General:

On the seventy-sixth anniversary of the dominion I beg Your Excellency to accept my warmest wishes for the ever-increasing prosperity of Canada and for the personal welfare of Your Excellency.

A message also came from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Joaquin Fernandez, as follows:

In the name of the government of Chile it affords me pleasure to greet you and the Canadian people on the occasion of the anniversary of confederation and to express our best wishes for the happiness of your government and yourself.

A message as follows was received also from the Vice-President of the Republic of Uruguay, His Excellency Alberto Guani, who recently visited Canada:

I congratulate you very cordially seeing in your people and in yourself staunch and distinguished supporters of right and liberty in this hour of spiritual trial for all humanity. I renew my gratitude for the amicable welcome extended recently in your admirable country.

As I have already said, other countries having legations in Ottawa sent messages of friendliest greetings either conveyed by letter or expressed in person by their ministers.

CANADIAN NAVY

PROPORTION OF HIGH RANKING OFFICERS AS COMPARED WITH OTHER NAVIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. ANGUS L. MACDONALD (Minister of National Defence for Naval Services): Last week the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) asked a question regarding the number of high-ranking officers in the Canadian navy, and if I am in order I should like to reply now. I am sorry that last week I gave the figure of seven as the number of those in the Canadian navy holding the rank of commodore or higher. The correct number is eight, but I was speaking from memory at the time and I had forgotten that quite recently another commodore was appointed. The total number, then, in the Canadian navy holding the rank of commodore and higher is eight, and a comparison with other navies, for which the hon. member asked as well, would run approximately as follows. The figures are not

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

perhaps entirely exact, because it is difficult to ascertain the precise strength of other navies, but I think they are substantially correct.

In the United Kingdom there is one officer of the rank of commodore and above for every 3,000 men. In Australia there is one officer of that rank for every 5,200 men. In the United States there is one officer of that rank for every 5,500 men, and in Canada one officer of that rank for every 7,500 men. It will be seen, therefore, that the reports which the hon. gentleman received to the effect that we had a great many high-ranking officers in the Canadian navy, as compared to other navies, are not correct, but that, on the contrary, we have many less of such high-ranking officers, proportionately, than any of the other navies to which I have referred.

MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT FOR BUILDING OF TUGS AT PICTOU, N.S.—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. BLACK (Cumberland): I should like to ask the Minister of Munitions and Supply if he has been able to reconsider the cancellation of the contract for building two tugs, which was given some time ago to Ferguson Brothers in Pictou. It has been represented to me that the minister does not understand the situation in that yard. This company took on the contract in good faith; about thirty per cent of the preliminary work has been done; it has been financed entirely by the company; this concern has about a thousand men in its different undertakings, and has not encroached in the slightest degree on the operations of the other shipbuilding yards in Pictou. They feel that if they were allowed to complete their contract, as they are prepared to do, it would form the basis of a post-war industry, of which we have very few in Nova Scotia. I should like to ask the minister if he has been able to reconsider, and reconsider favourably, representations made to him by the company and by the people of Pictou and, I believe, by the government of Nova Scotia.

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Munitions and Supply): The Ferguson yard at Pictou has been enlarged to provide facilities for the repair of naval and merchant vessels. A number of other yards have also been expanded for that purpose. The question arises as to whether the facilities can be utilized for other purposes, when there is an urgent need for repair facilities. At the