

development of the Empire itself, it will be gradually unfolded. The question is a great national question, far above and beyond party, and every Canadian as a Canadian, and not as a party man, should form his own opinion upon it. I shall defer any expression of my opinion until I hear what the Government, whose duty it is to act, may propose. Meantime, as a Canadian addressing this Canadian Club, I am entitled to express an opinion upon the present position.

I think the Government should outline their permanent policy during the coming session of Parliament, and have it discussed in the House and in the press and country. They should treat the subject as a national one, outside of party politics, and they should be free to consider impartially all suggestions which may be made, whether by the Opposition or by their own supporters, having in view only the lasting interests of Canada and the Empire. They should then mature their policy as soon as possible, and in such way that it can be submitted clearly and succinctly, and apart from any other question, for the approval or disapproval of the people, but not at a general election. Meantime the building of battleships with money supplied by Canada should be gone on with in Great Britain, where the construction can be completed without delay, in order that Canada may at the earliest date have ships ready to take part in the Empire's naval defence, and ready to form part of the Canadian navy under any plan which the people may sanction.

I am among those who regret that the majority in control of the Senate saw fit to refuse the aid asked for. I hope that the Government will ask for it again during the session now approaching, and that it will be granted, and that Canada will be saved from the humiliating position upon this great question which she now must occupy in the eyes of Great Britain and of the other self-governing Dominions.