

it is across the Atlantic ocean, and we believe that in years to come it will also be across the Pacific ocean. **The great market of Canada today is not the market which would be especially safeguarded and preserved to us by the expenditure of a large amount of money for military purposes, but it is a market which may be preserved to us by expenditure for naval purposes.**

"I venture to submit to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of this House, that **the expenditure in defence of our seaports, in defence of our coasts and in defence of the waters of the ocean, which are immediately adjacent to our coasts, is of immensely greater importance and of immensely greater advantage than the expenditure which, year after year, we are disbursing in connection with the military forces of this country.**

"I do not desire to minimize them, but I do desire to emphasize, as far as may be in my power, the importance to Canada of some attempt at naval defence, of the defence of our seaports and the protection of our commerce.

"Let us look at the question from another aspect. How many cities and towns are there in Canada which would be open to the raids of a second or third class cruiser, as pointed out by my hon. friend from North Toronto? **I suppose there are not less than forty or fifty cities and towns in Canada of 2,000 population or upwards which would be open to the raid of an enemy coming against our coasts.** Let us not forget that the danger pointed out to the Commonwealth of Australia by the Admiralty itself was the imminence of a movement of that kind in Australian waters and against the Australian coasts in case the Empire should unfortunately become involved in any great Naval war. We are all aware today that the policy of the British Admiralty is a policy of concentration, and **we are all aware that the Australian naval programme which has recently been entered into with the full approval and consent of the mother country, is altogether designed to guard the coasts of Australia against a danger of that kind.**

"In so far as my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) today outlined the lines of naval defence of this country I am entirely at one with him. **I am entirely of opinion, in the first place, that the proper line upon which we should proceed in that regard is the line of having a Canadian naval force of our own. I entirely believe in that. The other experiment has been tried as between Australia and the mother country and it has not worked satisfactorily in any respect.** In Great Britain the contribution has perhaps been regarded as rather unsatisfactory. In Australia it failed, in the end, to meet with the approval of the people for the reason that Great Britain felt constrained to ask Australia that the field of operations of the squadron should be extended to the China and Indian seas; and when the operation of that squadron was so extended, the Australians felt that the contribution which they had been making for some years past was not really being used to give that protection to Australia which her interests demanded. So that, the policy of Australia at the present time is to build up a *flotilla* of sub-marines and torpedo boats which, in case of war, would co-operate with the armed cruisers