

was doomed and the government was defeated. During the present session Mr. Pelletier, according to the report in the *Gazette*, "raised great fun by saying, 'I would rather have no ships at all than old tubs that go ashore on Yarmouth rocks.' (Loud laughter)". With the naval service an object of ridicule and scorn from a whole parliamentary party, it is little wonder that more than one-third of the crews deserted. Moderate as Sir Wilfrid Laurier's policy was, in deference to the susceptibilities of Quebec, it was repudiated by his own compatriots, and in this repudiation and defeat the Conservatives joined.

We have now in Canada two adversaries, and no policy can succeed until they agree. Laurier's plan was defeated by ridicule and accident. Borden's plans are subject to the same method and the same chance. There is nothing so good that might not be better in the eyes of those who are resolute to find fault, and the perception of absurdity does not rest with the Conservatives alone. Goodwin shoals are as dangerous as Yarmouth rocks. English officers are not infallible. The elements are no respecters of parties. If ridicule and scorn of English built and English managed Canadian ships is a weapon by which elections can be won, the Liberals may be trusted to employ it. They are not too scrupulous to refrain from following in the path which has been blazed for them. The Conservatives will then be in the way of learning the difference there is between the man who owns the ox that is being gored and the man who owns the ox that is doing the goring.

Great questions are never settled by argument. They are solved by sympathy in a moment of passionate enthusiasm. The Boer war, like a flash of flame, disclosed to the world Canada's relation to the Empire as no words of mouth or volumes of *Hansard* could. It required a war with France to consolidate various principalities of central Europe into the German Empire; but that was a real emergency, not a state of affairs out of which an emergency might arise. The writers for many English newspapers did their