

afraid that England will embroil us in unnecessary wars. The position of Britain to-day is not aggressive. What she has she holds, but she seeks to take no nation's property or encroach on the commerce of any other people. She is content with her position and the people over whom she rules. Let us then not be misled from a strong position on this question by any fear that England will embroil us in war. Moreover, if we had a navy ever so powerful that navy could not be used except with the consent of the parliament of Canada. We never let go the rein; the control is in our hands and ought to remain in our hands, and from what Mr. Asquith has said it is intended so to remain. If a navy is necessary for us, we need not be prejudiced by fear of being embroiled in foreign wars.

Then we are told that a Canadian navy would be regarded as a menace by the United States. I decline to consider that as appropriate in any sense. The United States built her navy without any regard to Canada. She imposes a tariff wall against Canada as she has a right to do and has repealed treaties which affected us greatly without reference to the effect on Canada. We are in a friendly position now with the United States; let us pursue the even tenor of our way and do what is best for ourselves, knowing that if we do what is right we will gain the respect of the United States, as President Taft has said, and our country will prosper. I need not dwell on this further than to say it may be objected that Canada cannot maintain the burden of a navy. That burden should be made light; we should not proceed hastily. It was said that we could not bear the burden of the Canadian Pacific railway or the burden of confederation. We are told that we ought to feel the burden of the Grand Trunk Pacific. We are carrying burdens all the time. We are getting a million stronger, probably, every five years—a million more shoulders are placed under this burden. We must bear the burdens and responsibilities which belong to us. If the policy of the government is a reasonable one, and will not impose upon us heavy obligations, the burden need not alarm us. As I said at the outset, I have given some views on the question of naval defence

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex).

which are entirely my own. They may be extravagant in the opinion of some hon. gentlemen, and in the opinion of others may not be adequate for the occasion. I do not speak as an expert, but as one who has given some thought to the question, and I feel as a Canadian in no case should we allow ourselves to take an inferior position in the galaxy of nations which circle around the British throne. If New Zealand with a million people can spend \$10,000,000 on a Dreadnought, and Australia with four and a half millions can spend a large amount in naval defence, surely Canada with a population of seven millions can do her part in this great work of national defence. It would be to our everlasting reproach if we shirked our responsibility, and it would not be, I think consistent with the public opinion of Canada if at this session an advance movement were not made. I must apologize to the House for the great length of my remarks on this and other questions, and have great pleasure in moving the motion placed in Mr. Speaker's hands.

Hon. Mr. BOYER (in French)—While I highly appreciate the honour of having been chosen to second the address, I had hoped to prevail upon hon. gentlemen, being the Benjamin of this body, to grant your indulgences, nay more, all your indulgences, but death, which has struck with such violence among the members of the Senate since last session has, since my appointment, claimed new victims. I am sure I interpret correctly the feelings of all my colleagues here in offering to the families of the departed our most sincere and lively sympathy. Permit me to refer specially to one of our departed colleagues, whose successor here I have the honour to be, and who was to me for more than thirty years, I shall not say a friend but a father. A man of wise council, a devoted friend, he left throughout his life traces of his kindness, and his decease has caused universal regret. I cannot better eulogize our departed colleagues than in quoting the words of a great poet:

Pleurons sur les trésors qu'emporte le cercueil.
Pleurons avec ceux dont les espoirs s'éteignent.