

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The question is one of administration of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I am prepared to discuss the Bill, but I cannot give the information asked by my hon. friend until I obtain it from the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The minister spoke somewhat disparagingly of the Australian dockyards, and spoke of the generosity of Canada in regard to these two. Apparently he was not accurate. His words at page 3403 'Hansard,' and the Blue-book at page 26 do not agree. He was inclined to be severe on me because I criticised the language of the Bill. I am more astonished to find that his statements do not agree with the Blue-book.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I shall take note of all the questions and endeavour to satisfy my hon. friend's curiosity.

Mr. HUGHES. What is the status of a rear admiral or commodore of the first class as compared with a similar position in the imperial navy?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. None that I know.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN: I have endeavoured to make an estimate based upon the returns brought down as to what the cost of this navy would be in the first ten years. I only put this forward as a tentative estimate in order that it may be corrected by those who have official knowledge, who would know much more about it than I would, and whose statement I am prepared to accept. I have founded the estimate, as far as I could, on what has been brought down, and upon the financial estimates made by the Minister of Militia. According to the statement of the Minister of Militia, at page 3416 of 'Hansard,' the estimated cost of the upkeep for all purposes would be \$6,685,000 for the first four years. The cost of the 'Rainbow' is not included, I put that at \$250,000. That brings it to \$6,935,000. Looking at the next page I find that the cost of eleven ships will be \$11,730,000, and assuming, according to the statement of the Prime Minister, that these ships are to be constructed in Canada, we should add, according to the statement of the Prime Minister, 33 per cent of \$9,940,000 for the increased cost of construction. That amounts to \$3,313,000. The total of these two sums is \$15,043,000. The total then of the sums up to date is \$21,978,000. The upkeep for six years, according to the Prime Minister's statement, would be \$25,500,000. If the estimate of the Minister of Militia is to be accepted you would strike about \$3,000,000 off that, but I am disposed to take the higher estimate. The headquarters staff for six ad-

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ditional years—because four years have been provided for in the estimate I first gave—would be \$3,000,000. The total of these sums is \$49,478,000. Then you add interest and depreciation, say for an average of six years at 3 per cent, a low estimate, \$8,906,040, or a total of \$58,484,040. I submit that as an estimate fairly deducible from the information already brought down, but I submit it only in a tentative sense, and in order that the Minister of Militia or the member of the government who has these matters in hand may criticise it and correct it.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I would have supposed that these matters could be better discussed on the items in Supply covering this service.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My reason for going in them is that the minister himself went into them in his speech.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. My speech will be before parliament just as much then as it is now.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Except that upon the estimates it could not be referred to, it would be another debate.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The question will be before the committee. As to my statement of annual cost, every one will understand that was not my estimate but the estimate of the officers of the department of Marine and Fisheries at that time. I simply gave it to the House for what it was worth, and it was the best calculation that could be given at that time. It will be noted that this statement was made in connection with it:

This estimate is only approximate. It will probably be found that it is rather an over estimate than an under estimate.

The estimated expenditure was given as to the 'Niobe' including cost of recruits, pay, victualling, &c., and the headquarters staff, &c. My hon. friend has read from the unrevised 'Hansard'. There was a serious mistake in the printing of the table which I gave, which was corrected, and will be found corrected in the 'Revised Hansard.' As to these matters of detail I may say again that while I think they were approximately correct it will be more appropriate to discuss them when the question of the vote to be granted by parliament is under consideration.

My remarks upon Australia were made in this connection. Unfavourable contrasts as between what Canada was doing, and what Australia was doing had been made, and I pointed out and read from the Blue-book to prove that Canada for one thing had taken over the Halifax and Esquimalt works. I assumed that we were paying all expenses connected with the docks, and all