

tion of this House in the way in which they should have been brought.

There is not very much difference between the policies of the two parties, the Government and the Opposition. Both parties, as I understand it, are willing that we should contribute something toward the naval defence of the Empire. The Government wishes to make that contribution in the shape of \$35,000,000, to be sent over to the Old Country and worked up into three dreadnought battleships which shall be under the control of the British Admiralty. We on this side prefer the policy which was made unanimous in 1909, that is that we should assist Great Britain and the Empire not by money contributions, but in the way of building ships in this country, have them in this country to defend our coasts, and have them available to the Empire in times of stress, but to be manned and maintained by this country. I take the ground representing a large section of the labour people of this country, that the policy of the Liberal party is the policy that should be carried out. I secondly take the ground that that policy is the best policy for Canada, for it would give a great stimulus to the iron and steel and other great industries of this country.

Now, the steel industry of Canada, as a matter of fact, is only about ten or eleven years old. Ten or eleven years ago there were no great steel plants in Canada. The Dominion Steel Company's plant, situated at the city of Sydney, in the constituency I have the honour to represent, is a magnificent industry. There are three districts in this country in which the steel industry could naturally be developed. The first is the province of Nova Scotia, from which the right hon. the Prime Minister of this country comes. In that province, I believe, steel may be manufactured more cheaply than in any other part of this country. It is true that in that province we have not very much of the ore, but the ore is almost at our door in the province of Newfoundland, and transportation by water from Newfoundland to the shores of Cape Breton is very cheap and easily accomplished. We have in the province of Nova Scotia probably the greatest coal areas in Canada. For these reasons the steel industry there should be fostered and developed more readily and more cheaply than in any other part of the country. Then we have another district in the central part of Canada, in Ontario, where the steel industry is an accomplished fact. However, I do not believe that they are in a position there to manufacture steel as cheaply as we in the province of Nova Scotia. They have the ore, it is true; but their difficulty is the coal. Coal may be obtained from the lower provinces and also from the United States, and when the canal system of this country is completed

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the coal will be more cheaply brought into the province of Ontario than it is at the present time. We have another district in which the steel industry may be developed some day; that is, on the Pacific coast. They have there, I believe, the raw materials. Why the industry has not flourished there is a matter of which I do not know very much. I hold it as axiomatic that the steel and coal industries of Nova Scotia are the backbone of that province, and, as a matter of fact, of the Maritime provinces. I believe that if the steel industry were a failure in Nova Scotia we should be in a worse position than we were in before. Previous to Confederation, the province of Nova Scotia flourished. We had our wholesale houses at Halifax. Our merchants controlled the entire business of Nova Scotia. But after we came into Confederation the wholesale business was transferred from Halifax to cities in the upper provinces or across the sea. Up to twelve years ago, business in the province of Nova Scotia was absolutely stagnant. In those days it was almost impossible for an ordinary man in Nova Scotia to make a decent living. Thousands upon thousands of our young men and young women were obliged to go across to the United States, not only to earn a living for themselves, but to send occasionally a few dollars to their parents who were in straitened circumstances on the old homesteads. But a new era dawned. The Dominion Coal Company was incorporated, and began to develop the magnificent coal resources of the province of Nova Scotia. In its wake followed the Dominion Steel Company, which was the natural concomitant of the coal corporation, and from that time on this steel company has been using thousands upon thousands of tons of the coal which has been mined by the Dominion Coal Company, in the operation of its work. In this way great industrial centres have sprung up and are flourishing in Nova Scotia to-day, and a magnificent market has been established for the products of the agricultural sections of the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and for the eastern sections of the province of New Brunswick. That being the case, it is most important to the industrial life of the Maritime provinces not only that the steel industry should flourish, but that it should be fostered at every opportunity and in every possible way. There is one great way of fostering this industry; instead of sending this \$35,000,000 across to the Old Country to make the rich men in England richer, we should use it for the construction of battleships to be placed along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. In that case not only would there be flourishing in this country a great ship-building industry, but there would be afforded to the steel organizations of this country that