

avoid a collision if they persist in carrying out that policy. This historian goes on to say, and I am sorry the right hon. the Prime Minister is not here to listen to this, in view of the stand he took at the conferences of 1902 and 1907, because the course he followed at these conferences, I believe, laid the foundation for just such a sentiment as exists among the German masses:

In the British colonies very little attention is paid to antagonism between Great Britain and Germany. Never has the fact been more clearly demonstrated that Great Britain is only standing by herself and that her colonies have grown into separate nations with their own separate interests.

I think that if the right hon. gentleman had fallen in line with the representatives of the other colonies at the conference of 1907 and supported the resolution introduced by Dr. Smart, there would not be such a feeling prevailing in Germany as we witness there to-day. The Germans would not have gained the impression that England was standing alone and that her colonies were not at her back. I have also referred to facts stated freely in England, and I desire to quote from a speech by Lord Rosebery—not a political speech, not a speech destined to help the Unionist party, but a speech delivered at the Imperial Press Conference, in which he referred to the British navy, and practically made an appeal to the colonies to rally around the motherland:

We can and we will build Dreadnoughts or whatever nearest type of ship may be as long as we have a shilling to spend on them or a man to put on them. All that we can and will do, but I am not sure that even that will be enough and I think it may be your duty to take back to our young Dominions across the seas this message and this impression—that some personal duty and responsibility for national defence rests upon every man and citizen of the empire. Tell your people, if they can believe it, the deplorable state at which Europe is rattling into barbarism, and the pressure which is put upon this little England to defend itself, its liberties and yours. Take this message also back with you, that the old country is right at heart, that there is no fault or weakness in her. For her own salvation she must look to herself, and that failing her, she must look to you. —

I say that this was an invitation from Lord Rosebery, who was certainly not making a speech for any political effect. Himself a Liberal, he urged on Canada, as well as on the other colonies, the duty of rallying to the support of the motherland and not allowing all this taxation for national defence to be borne by the motherland alone.

I wish to quote another expression of opinion, the opinion of a Liberal, Mr. McKenna, Lord of the Admiralty and member of the Asquith government:

Mr. ROCHE.

We cannot force our strategical ideas on you; we should fail if we attempted to do so. If any dominion came to the admiralty at home here and asked us what our view was as to the best assistance for the purpose of common defence which could be rendered, we should be ready with an answer, but we should not necessarily expect you to accept our answer. You will have your own views as to the proper development of defensive forces in your own dominion. It is only by your working out your own problems for yourselves that you can gain experience. Lessons told you by others will never come home to you with the same force as lessons which you have learned for yourselves.

What occurred after that? The colonies did go to the motherland; they did go to the British admiralty. They did ask for advice. Australia took the advice and so did New Zealand. Canada got the advice but refused to follow it. The Chief Lord of the Admiralty said that the admiralty was quite willing to advise the colonies as to the best means of national defence, but did not wish to impose their views on Canada.

Again, Mr. Balfour, speaking at this conference, and not making a political speech, also referred to the fact, that though local defence is necessary it is really subordinate to imperial defence and subordinate from the view point of the colonies themselves.

The German ocean, the channel, the neighbourhood of these islands, possibly the Mediterranean, those are the theatres in which, if there is to be an attempt to dissipate those fleet contingents, so that when the time of an Armageddon, the Armageddon will take place, and it is impossible for a crisis to arise which shall not be able to have that concentration on which our whole imperial existence and the defence of each separate portion of the empire really depends. The fate of Australia, the fate of New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, India, is not going to be decided in the Indian ocean; it is going to be decided here.

What does that mean? It means that the fate of Canada is not to be decided off the coast of the Atlantic or the Pacific, but in the North sea or the home waters, by the enemy striking at the central fleet. How easy it would be to despatch the individual fleets, such as the Canadian fleet, if the central fleet were overwhelmed.

Referring to Mr. Balfour, my hon. friend from Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) said that he never took stock in this German scare. My hon. friend has not been reading the newspapers or he would not have made that statement. What has the German press been doing if not holding up Mr. Balfour to execration as a scare monger simply because he had been making reference to the condition of the British fleet and to what the Germans had been doing with the avowed object of attacking England. So that the hon. member for Pictou (Mr.