

the naval defence of the empire is a better expression of our loyalty than a permanent policy which combines the defence of Canada and her commercial routes to Great Britain with such an extension of a Canadian fleet as would render it serviceable at the same time for the defence of the empire, wherever its integrity was assailed. Let me briefly and somewhat on the lines of my hon. friend's speech state the origin of this great question of naval defence and its development during the last few years as I understand it. The first movement in the House of Commons for naval defence was made by the Hon. Mr. Foster. In November 1909 he introduced a resolution, which I do not propose to read at length, but in which it is stated "that Canada should no longer delay in assuming her proper share of responsibility and financial burden incidental to the protection of her exposed coast-line, and great sea ports." In a speech of great power Mr. Foster enforced the purpose of his resolution. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the government of that day, moved an amendment thereto, in which he agreed with Mr. Foster as to the desirability of Canada doing her full share in the defence of the empire. Mr. Borden, then leader of the opposition, concurred in the general purpose of both resolutions, but suggested some changes in the amendment moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Let me present a few of the points in that resolution, which consisted of four clauses, in which both sides of the House concurred as amended by Mr. Borden. The first clause is expressed in these terms:

"This House fully recognizes the duty of the people of Canada, as they increase in numbers and wealth, to assume in larger measure the responsibilities of national defence."

I am sure every senator will concur, that it would be intolerable if, with our wealth and great resources and our abundant prosperity, we should look idly on as the mother land is preparing to fight the battles of the empire, and to fight our battles, also. May I speak for hon. gentlemen when I say that we concur in the proposition to which unanimous assent was given in the other Chamber.

The second clause is still more striking:

The House is of opinion that under the present constitutional relations—

May I emphasize the words "constitutional relations."

—between the mother country and the self-governing dominions, the payment of regular and periodical contributions to the imperial treasury for naval and military purposes would not so far as Canada is concerned, be the most satisfactory solution of the question of defence.

Hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex): To that proposition, we adhere on this side, on both grounds—first because of our present constitutional relations, and, on the other, because of the entangling character, which I shall expose later on, of possible contributions to the mother country for defence. Clause 3 says:

The House will cordially approve of any necessary expenditure designed to promote the speedy organization—

and let me say the word "speedy" was interpolated at Mr. Borden's request—

—of a Canadian naval service in co-operation with and in close relation to the Imperial navy, along the lines suggested by the Admiralty at the last Imperial conference and in full sympathy with the view that the naval supremacy of Britain is essential to the security of commerce, the safety of the empire and the peace of the world.