

of war to give assistance to the mother country. But they abandoned that policy, they did not want to pursue the many course, but they said: We ought to contribute \$25,000,000 because there was an emergency. But last night the leader of the government was compelled to state before this House and country that at that time he was wrong, that no emergency existed, that he did not know what he was talking about but was only trying to get away from the position he had taken eight or nine months before, and, therefore, we must not blame the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Monk) for differing with him, that the Minister of Public Works was nearer right than he. Such is the position to which the leader of the government of Canada is reduced. I suppose that, a year from now, he will say he was wrong in issuing his manifesto in September, 1911. In that manifesto he said:

I hold that the plan of the government contemplates the creation of a naval force that will be absolutely useless in time of war, and therefore of no practical benefit to Canada or to the empire. It will cost immense sums of money to build, equip and maintain. It will probably result in time of war in the useless sacrifice of many valuable lives, and it will not add one iota to the fighting strength of the empire. The more it is considered, the more does it become evident that the whole naval plan of the government is an unfortunate blunder.

I hope that my hon. friend, within the next year will come forward and say he was wrong then. It may be asking too much, but it is just possible that he may come to his senses and recall all these statements, and do what I have already said to be the manly thing, that is, to start in to build our navy for ourselves. But can he do this with the present Minister of Public Works in his government? Can he do this so long as he is under the control of the Nationalist party of Quebec? I submit that it is impossible for him to do it. His own common sense must have shown him by this time that it was not reasonable to ask for a contribution towards the imperial navy, because he admits that there was no emergency. He tells us that he has nailed his colours to the mast, that he cannot take the Liberal policy and build a navy because it would be a useless waste of money, and might lead to the useless sacrifice of lives. What then is he going to do? If he listens to the Nationalists of Quebec he will do just what we have always told him he would do—nothing. That is what he is driven to. And that is why I object to the inclusion of these gentlemen in his government; that is why the Liberal party object, and why, I believe, the loyal people of Canada will object, to the inclusion of these men in the Prime Minister's govern-

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ment—because the end will be that nothing will be done.

I had the pleasure of discussing this matter with people of all shades of politics in the old country last summer. While I admit that I was not able to discuss it with every politician, yet I met many of them both Unionist and Liberal; and I must say I did not meet a single Unionist who did not tell me that the policy that Canada ought to adopt was the very policy that we had decided upon. It is true, many of them said we should have gone further. That is my own opinion. Had I had my own way in its entirety, our policy would have gone further, and would have included a Dreadnought or a complete fleet unit. But the difference is only a matter of degree. My idea was, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster) said that we should start by obtaining training ships, and so place ourselves in a position to train our young men. This would enable us to develop our own officers. Then we could build our own vessels. We might as the Minister of Trade and Commerce said build only torpedo boats at first, but later we could build cruisers and finally Dreadnoughts. I repeat that I would like to have seen the full programme carried out. But the difference, as I have said, was only one of degree. We were on the right track, according to the consensus of opinion not only in this country, but in the motherland.

But what will be the position of Canada in the eyes of the world if we follow out the decision that the Minister of Public Works will force this government to make, which the Prime Minister's alliance with the Nationalists of Quebec will force him to follow, and do nothing? Canada has been recognized for years as the premier self-governing dominion of the British Empire. One has only to travel in Great Britain, meet the politicians there on either side of politics and other people as well, to know that everywhere in the old land Canada is looked up to as the greatest of the overseas dominions of the empire. But in what position will Canada be in the eyes of the world, when, at the behest of the Nationalist party of Quebec Canada says: We will not contribute money, we will not build vessels, we will not take any part, but will place ourselves in the degrading position, which the Minister of Trade and Commerce described in the magnificent speech to which I have referred, of relying upon the bounty of the hard worked and over burdened taxpayer of Great Britain to defend us in the troubles that may arise in the future. It is a gloomy picture, but who can say that it is not a true one in view of the state of affairs in Canada to-day? Therefore, I say, I am disappointed in the lines upon which the government has been formed. And in that I think I express the sen-