

tion in the British Empire which I think by climate and soil they are qualified to perform, but what I wanted to say was that the trade with the Indies which I think will increase, has an importance outside its commercial value. The spirit I felt in Jamaica was to me somewhat disturbing. Their trade was carried on with the United States. They were not Americanized, and yet their lumber came by way of Charleston, and the manufactures by way of New York or Philadelphia. Condensed milk and butter used in the islands was mostly from United States factories, and the cottons in the same way to a very great extent, and I felt, although there did not seem to be any avowal of special interest in the United States, politically, that they believed themselves, to a great extent in matters of trade and commerce, depending upon the United States, and that their interest was to cultivate their trade with Canada or the empire. This opens a new door, shall I say for their patriotism; it permits us to enter into the field and imbue them with some of our Canadian ideas and establish a new bond of union between this important part of His Majesty's Dominions and this young Dominion. I come now to the important clause, number 8, with regard to the Naval policy. Hon. gentlemen will have noticed, as I did, with some regret how, shall I say gingerly, both the mover and seconder skimmed over this important clause. The mover of course referred to the wealth of the empire, to our great commercial prosperity, and the necessity for their defence. The seconder said nothing upon the question of Naval Policy. I may not say much; I may say a little. I may say, in the first place, that it was the naval policy of the government that we looked forward to with the greatest of interest when called to meet and counsel as to the affairs of the nation. We thought, well, we can manage trade and commerce fairly well. They are the ordinary experience of every parliament, and we understand something about making treaties and about revenue and expenditure of money on railway legislation, but there is concealed in the bosoms of the ministers a policy on a

most important matter affecting Canada and affecting our relations with Great Britain, and in regard to which our anxiety is growing greater and greater every day. The speech says:—

'During the past summer four members of my government conferred in London with His Majesty's government on the question of Naval defence.' If four members conferred and each has the secret in his heart, we should, from some one or other, obtain some knowledge of what that secret is, particularly since on so many occasions in the old land and in this they received unbounded applause for the speeches they made and for the patriotic manner in which they alluded to the empire and to the readiness with which Canada was going to assert herself and contribute of men and particularly of money for the defence of that empire against all assault. The Premier made speeches before the Constitutional Club, speeches which were quite appropriate, I am bound to say, and worthy of the position he held. And here I may remark that we were glad to know, irrespective of political lines, that the representative of Canada, the head of its government, conducted himself with much dignity and much self respect, and reflected the highest tone of Canadianism, although he did not say much in regard to what we wanted to know, and we welcomed him back feeling that we were receiving a man who had filled his position in that respect with credit to the country and honour to himself. He made various speeches in the old land, and in every one of these he led up to the circumstance that something was going to be done, but what it was going to be nobody was any the wiser, because of his guarded and reticent remarks. Premier Asquith and Lord Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, also gave assurance over and over again that Canada was going to do the right and patriotic thing and you have no doubt read their speeches with interest, your interest growing greater every line you read. Now you say we are going to know all about it, but as you finished the speech the ghost of this Naval Policy van-