

itself it does for Canada. I believe that in any steps we may take for the preparation of a Canadian navy for our own defence we should also have in view the fact that the Canadian navy might be useful in an emergency for the business of the empire. Subsidiary to the navy, I think we should have a dry dock, training schools and training ships. The Americans have six training ships, contrary to the Rush-Bagot convention, on Lake Huron, in which they are training a thousand men. We should have a naval academy such as they have in England and in the United States. Some of you say it is a large proposition. I delight in it because it is large. I think the day of small things has gone by. I do not say that it should be built in a day, that we should incur all the expenditure in one, two, three, four, five, six or maybe ten years, but I do say we should make a beginning, and in the very beginning, we should have in our minds what the plan would be, that every stone laid in the foundation should have some regard to the superstructure. But is it too large a proposition for Canada? Everything will depend on the amount of money expended from time to time. We have already dealt in large propositions. You will remember what Tennyson said:

Pray heaven your greatness may not fail
Through craven fear of being great.

The building of the Canadian Pacific railway was a large proposition, the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the deepening of the canals, the construction of the Intercolonial railway and the settlement of our prairies were large propositions. We are the better because we dealt with them; we are the stronger because we have settled them. We are a nation and more confident of ourselves, and a greater credit to the race to which we belong because we have dealt with them. Then why say that a Canadian navy is not necessary, that the British fleet will take care of our defence? I think the time has come when we should not shelter ourselves behind the British fleet. At times we think that we have been sacrificed in the treaties framed between Britain and the United States, but Great Britain has tended us in

our infancy, has guarded us in our development and watches over us to-day. Shall we always be dependent minors in the home of our fathers? Shall we never attain to that degree of citizenship and manhood in which we will be able to act for ourselves and also assist the motherland? Great Britain asked no aid from us in the Boer war. We sent our aid, which was acceptable, and did good service. I hope the time will never come when, should we have trouble in Canada, we will shelter ourselves behind British warships and allow the motherland to fight our battles while we sit on the shore singing 'Rule, Britannia; Britannia rules the waves.' That is a position which only a poltroon could take, and no self-respecting Canadian would countenance such an act of cowardice. The empire and the colonies are one. When the empire defends itself, it defends the colonies, and when the colonies defend themselves they defend the empire. But it is said that Great Britain may embroil us in continental wars for which we are not responsible, and of which we might not approve. This is a myth. This is the objection of a man who has not studied history, who has never looked at England's wars in the perspective in which we see them now, and which is not capable of being sustained by facts. If you go over the wars of the last century you will not find one that I can recall at this moment in which Great Britain was engaged, which was not in any respect and some in all respects a meritorious war. The war of 1812 was with the United States. In that war the United States was the aggressor. The declaration of war was issued by the United States and England only defended her ancient and undoubted right, she claimed, of following her deserting seamen into foreign vessels. The United States accepted that, because in the treaty which followed the war there was no objection raised and the principle remains to this day as it was in 1812. So also the great Peninsular War was a war for the defence of the empire. With Napoleon master of Europe, there was nothing for England to do but to fight, and she fought successfully and maintained her own autonomy and position among the nations of the world. Therefore we need not be