

Although many important measures are foreshadowed in the address, yet I am probably correct in saying that greater interest centers about the proposed measure dealing with the naval contribution than as to all others.

Public sentiment during the last three or four years has been so rapidly growing in Canada as to lead to the conviction that we have been not only remiss in our duty to the empire, but lacking in the proper sense of the appreciation which we should have for maintaining the dignity of Canada. We have been pursuing a negative course on this important question. Previous to the acceleration by the German government of its naval programme and the increased armament entered upon by other European nations, Canada was indifferent to the all-important question of naval defence. We rested securely upon Great Britain maintaining the two-power standard against the rest of the world, but suddenly international conditions developed through the adoption of increased naval programmes by the first-class powers that prevented Great Britain maintaining the standard of two to one against any European combination. This has brought about a revolution of public opinion not only in Canada but throughout the empire, that there are responsibilities and obligations to be assumed by the overseas dominions in carrying their share of the burden in naval defence of the empire. The visit of the Prime Minister with several of his ministers to England during the late recess and the important conferences had with the Imperial Government on this question, have not only created an additional interest in the question, but has brought into prominence a demand on the part of the Canadian public that this country must do something substantial in the way of an emergency contribution at the present time. The cross roads have been reached when Canada must elect whether at the present crisis she is prepared to give not only her sympathy but financial assistance in the naval defence of the empire, or in the alternative whether we are to stand to one side and refuse to assume the obligations that we as an integral part of the empire

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

are morally and nationally bound to assume. While the former position would mean that we are prepared to identify ourselves with the advantages and obligations of the empire, the latter position would mean the withdrawal of Canada therefrom and our entry upon an independent course. He would be a rash man who would venture to say that Canada is in favour of the latter; but on the other hand the sentiment, the intention and the determination of this country at the present time is stand or fall by the empire. In this matter the empire expects Canada to do its duty. The other self-governing parts of the empire beyond the seas have with unanimity and magnanimity and of their own motion, contributed most generously to the naval defence of the empire. It may be said with confidence that there is no part of the empire in which the sentiment is not dominant that the dominions beyond the seas are both glad and proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Mother Country in this time of stress and crisis in maintaining those glories and traditions of the sea that have made the empire great.

It is not my intention to make any reference to the other subjects dealt with in the address from the Throne, except to say that they indicate the submission of important measures which will be brought down to parliament, and I am satisfied when that time arrives the best attention of the Senate will be given to their consideration, and I hope, their passage.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I do not intend to detain the House very long and will not cover the whole ground dealt with by the speech from the Throne. I will address myself solely to a couple of questions which seem to be of greater importance, or at all events that loom larger in the eyes of the public. My hon. friend talked of the prosperity of this country. We are all agreed that we are on the high road to prosperity and have been for the last fifteen years. The Conservative party used to say that there was but one party in this Dominion which had the instinct of government, and that the Liberal party was associated with a period of blue ruin and depression. This accusation which we