

Speech
delivered by
Sir George Ross
in the
Senate of Canada
on the
**Naval Policy of the Borden
Government**

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex): Allow me to offer my congratulations to the hon. leader of the government on the calm, lucid and comprehensive statement he made to us yesterday on the Bill under consideration. My hon. friend felt, no doubt, the responsibility of the position he occupied. Allow me to join with him in expressing a similar sense of responsibility, and I can only now, at the outset, assure the hon. members of the Senate that I approach the discussion of the Bill before the House with a deep sense of my responsibility to the Senate and to the country. I realize that what I say may be read and considered far beyond the limits of this Chamber, that in the mother country, as well as in His Majesty's dominions beyond the seas, all eyes are turned towards Canada at this moment.

Unfortunately the voice in which we speak on this question is, by circumstances for which I am not responsible, construed to be the voice of party rather than the voice of the country. It is not for me to question the loyalty of those who disagree with my views. May I hope for similar generosity in return, or perhaps still better, may I hope that those who read our speeches may believe that we are equally anxious, though by different means, to maintain the solidarity of the British empire, and to strengthen the bonds of defence and attachment which for over one hundred and fifty years have so happily bound Canada to the mother land. In the lines of welcome addressed by Tennyson, England's greatest poet laureate, to the Queen mother, when, as the bride and wife of the Prince of Wales, she turned her face toward England, her new, home, let me say:

For Saxon, or Dane, or Norman are we,
Teuton or Celt or whatever we be;
We are all Danes in our welcome to thee, Alexandra.

May I adapt these lines to the present occasion and say:

For Saxon or Dane, or Norman are we,
Teuton or Celt or whatever we be;
We are Britons all, in our love for thee, Britannia.

Defence a Duty.

The promotion of defence is a duty we owe to ourselves and to the empire. We are all agreed that from centre to circumference Canada is the home of patriotic citizens. We are feeling our way in a large sense, for the first time, how we can best express that patriotism. The line of cleavage between the two sides of the House appears to be, whether the contribution, as the Bill says, to increase