

these men have told us that not only the integrity, but the very existence of the British empire is threatened. If Germany is not making those preparations to attack Britain, why is she building so many Dreadnoughts? She does not require them to attack France or Russia or any other land power. She is evidently building them for one purpose, and that is the destruction of the British empire. Her evident intention is to outclass and outnumber and defeat the British fleet on the North sea, seize the very heart of the empire, plunder the country, exact an enormous war indemnity, and perhaps carry away our beloved King, a prisoner, as she did the Emperor Napoleon III, and then proceed to crush and conquer the colonies at her leisure, and as a matter of detail. When the German Dreadnoughts are ready, she can choose her own time to make an attack; and there is no doubt at all, that when she does strike, she will follow her usual course of striking quickly, and when least expected. Just look at her strategical position. She has everything to gain if victorious, and if defeated she has nothing to lose, for all her fleet has to do is sail back to the protection of her invincible land forces; whereas should she win she can dismember the British empire, capture its immense wealth, control the ocean, and become the leading power in the world. That is something for Germany to fight for; and if we do not watch ourselves, there is little doubt that she will succeed. Judging by her past record I fear she would make a merciless conqueror and a hard taskmaster. We know what she has done to others. In 1864 she picked a quarrel with little Denmark, and despoiled that kingdom of two provinces. In 1866, owing to the discovery of her needle gun, she succeeded in crushing Austria in a single battle. In 1870, she overran France, seized two of that country's most favoured provinces, took the Emperor Napoleon away a prisoner as a hostage, and allowed him to die at Chiselhurst, and exacted the until then unheard of war indemnity of \$1,000,000,000. Need we expect that this hitherto invincible power will spare Britain and her colonies if that unfortunate day should come when conquered Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen and oversea Britons would have to plead for mercy before their victorious and unrelenting masters. Germany, it is said, has spent thirty years in preparing for this. In the meantime she has consolidated her empire, she has enlarged and improved her old canals, and built many new ones. She has been increasing and perfecting her invincible land army, and also supported and encouraged the enterprising firm of the Krupps until it has become the greatest manufacturing establishment of military supplies in the world.

Germany has the advantage of being able to attack Britain by sea, whereas Britain cannot attack her by land; and I would just say that should the day come when Germany shall have conquered Britain, and a German tax be put on our products going to the British market, our Canadian farmers will suffer very severely. Even that is something to look after. Should the day of peril ever come, those silly Canadians, who are willing to trust to our little unbuilt cruisers, would then find out, when too late, that their cruisers, even if built and going out to meet the fleet of German Dreadnoughts, would simply be the laughing stock of the world. And what is still worse, if these cruisers were manned by loyal Canadian citizens and seamen, the poor fellows would be slaughtered before they could raise a finger to defend themselves. They would be simply butchered to make a German holiday.

As to those other foolish Canadians who depend on the Munroe doctrine, they would find, also when too late, that though the United States might not be willing to allow a European country to take permanent possession of Canada, they would never think of going to war, especially with the conqueror of Britain, for the purpose of preventing Germany from levying on Canada a war indemnity of such astounding proportions that it would simply mean the ruin of this country.

In the face of all this, we are told there is no danger, that these preparations do not mean anything; and although one of the greatest military disasters that could befall a civilized country is almost upon us, our government is doing nothing but waving the old flag, shouting loyalty and marking time. I had a letter from one of my constituents the other day in which he said the people were becoming alarmed and suspicious. He said that they heard the 'hail master' and the giving of the kiss, and were beginning to be afraid of what might follow. Britain requires Dreadnoughts in the North sea. She requires them without delay. Why then this policy on the part of our government of putting off, doing nothing, dilly dallying? Is it any wonder that our sister colonies are beginning to suspect Canada's loyalty to the British Crown? In my opinion Canada is loyal, but the whole trouble is not a lack of loyalty on the part of the government, as some of our friends seem to think, but simply their want of promptness and business ability, because there is neither promptness nor business ability shown in their proposal to build those little cruisers. In the first place should the crisis come upon us, we have no time in which to build them, we have not the trained mechanics, we have no mills with facilities to roll plates of nickel and steel