

offer, and appreciate the position in which we have been placed in that regard.

Let us see what Australia is doing. She has 32 fighting ships already built. She has an expenditure this year of \$15,000,000, which amounts to \$3 per head of population, as compared with twenty-five cents per head here; and remember this \$15,000,000 does not include harbour improvements, defences or fuel reserves. New Zealand has contributed to the British navy a battleship costing \$10,000,000. It was my privilege during a visit overseas shortly after the battle of Jutland to spend a day with Admiral Beatty and his fleet. There I was able to see that dreadnought the New Zealand, with all its battle scars and they told me how it led the way in that great battle of Jutland. It was also my privilege to go on board the great dreadnought Canada, and I was humiliated when I remembered that not one dollar had been put into that vessel by this country. Yet it was called Canada. When we take into consideration the mighty efforts that the great British navy put forth to protect not only the shores of Great Britain but the overseas Dominions and the people of this country, we must fully appreciate that it is our duty to give them at least a reasonable assurance that as far as we are concerned we will assist to some considerable extent. The Malay States have given \$12,000,000 towards the British navy—Canada not one dollar. Africa has given \$500,000—Canada not one dollar. Now the hon. member for Lunenburg would ask Great Britain to take charge of the docks at Esquimalt and Halifax and to protect our shores. He is not in favour of our expending the paltry sum of twenty-five cents per head under the present proposals. I do not think I need take up any more time. The minister deserves credit for the manner in which he has placed this Estimate before the House. He has got rid of the deadwood and has reorganized the department, having placed it on a business basis. He is now asking only sufficient money to carry on. Is Canada going back to the old service? Is she going to let England take care of all the coasts and dockyards? No; a thousand times no.

Mr. LEMIEUX: If I were, as my hon. friend has described himself in the Parliamentary Companion, a bachelor of oratory, it would be quite easy for me to deliver a flag-flapping speech such as we have just heard. The question is not whether or not the Empire is in danger or whether there may be entangling alliances which

might bring Canada into conflict with the United States. The question before the committee is whether Canada at the present moment is in a position to tax herself to the amount which is under debate, until the Imperial Conference has met. Mr. Chairman, I wish at once to take exception to the remarks which have been made by my hon. friend. I do not like this invidious comparison between the respective burden of the taxpayer in Great Britain and the taxpayer in Canada. Great Britain, I suppose, is mistress of her own House and of her own destinies. Great Britain is taxing herself to the extent she desires to be taxed, and it is not for us to say that overtaxing herself we should go to her rescue. My hon. friend gives expression, I think, to a very sordid sentiment when he insinuates that Great Britain is begging from her dominions.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): Not at all.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Yes. My hon. friend says, in effect: Here is Great Britain taxing herself \$10 per head, whilst in Canada we offer her only twenty-five cents per head. Great Britain has not asked any of her Dominions to tax herself.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I am quite sure my hon. friend has no intention of misrepresenting me.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I have stated just what I gathered from the hon. member's remarks.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I certainly never made such a statement.

Mr. LEMIEUX: That is what I gathered from the hon. member's remarks, but if it is not what he meant I am ready to abide by his correction.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton). The statement as regards Great Britain being compelled to pay \$10.75 per head is correct, and the people of Canada are asked to pay only 25 cents.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The people of Canada are being asked to pay—by whom?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: By the Canadian Parliament.

Mr. LEMIEUX: That is where my hon. friend is mistaken. We are being offered a cruiser, two destroyers and two submarines, which form the nucleus of a navy. But we have not asked for that. We are offered the embryo of a navy, and surely it will grow. Canada does not intend to protect her coast lines with the nucleus of a navy; this is