

am supposed to have knowledge enough to express an opinion, or to be asked to express an opinion on a question of that kind. I give no opinion but my own. It is not *ex cathedra* at all. It is not after consultation with the government or anybody else. I gather that opinion from some study I have given to the question, and from perhaps my own intuitions as a Canadian as to what Canada should do in the premises. If the policy of the government is to act, well and good, if it is sufficient, if it is in line with what I have outlined, then it will be the juxtaposition of two minds brought to bear on a very important question. First, Canada should build her own navy. That is among the propositions which I make as an hon. member of this House. Canada should have a navy of her own, built in Canadian shipyards, just as the British, French, United States and Japan navies are being built. I do not think we should import the battleships. I am assuming that we will have a navy, and I do not think we should import cruisers unless in an emergency. Brazil has bought her fleet in the British market, and I believe Spain has also. We may be driven to that course also if the emergency arises. My proposition is that we should make preparations at an early date for building our own ships, and building them by such skilled labour as we can supply, or such skilled labour as can be imported for the purpose. What would be the result of such a course? In the first place it would mean the influx of an enormous amount of capital. If any hon. gentlemen have passed through the Clyde or Newcastle-on-Tyne, or the great shipyards of Liverpool, they will have seen at a glance what the construction of large ships, either for merchant marine or for naval purposes, would require. As I have already said, it would mean the influx of much capital. We welcome capital, no matter from what source it comes.

It is gratifying to know that the Americans, in order to overcome the difficulties created by their own tariff, have invested a few millions of money in Canada. A few millions in shipping will be useful for the merchant marine as well as the navy. It would mean a new industry, the em-

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ployment of thousands of people, and give an impulse to our steel and iron industry. We should make our own armour plate and everything else, except perhaps the armaments, in our country. It should be a great home industry, and a Canadian industry under the control of the best experts the admiralty could afford, and our vessels should conform to the best methods of ship building. It is said that if we build a navy it would become scrap iron in a short time, as some of the vessels built in Britain have. We have to take our chances on that. We must keep up with the procession if we can, and we have to take chances that the ships we build now, in twenty or thirty years may not be the best for the purposes for which they were intended, but they should be built now of the highest class and best modern equipment. They should be capable of substantial defence if required. I do not mean that we should have a navy all at once but it should be so substantial when completed, if ever completed, or when it has reached the point we think we should aim at, that it would render good service in defending our trade routes, and, if necessary, defending our coasts. It should be manned by Canadians, if possible. The policy of Australia is to borrow cruisers, we may have to do the same, but they look forward to the time when they will man their ships, and we must look forward to the time when we will man ours. We have 71,000 fishermen, with a good many thousand boats, the best material to make such seamen as won victories for Britain in days of old. The fishermen of Gloucester manned the American fleet in the Spanish war. The fishermen of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia would man a fleet almost as large as the British. We could man such a fleet as we required from our own fishermen and have many to spare, and we would give them employment in the country and we would train them to seamanship, which would be necessary for defence purposes. Our navy should be under the control of Canada, at the same time it should be one of the units for the defence of the empire if required. What we do for Canada we do for the empire. What the empire does for