

The scheme for Canadian and Australian navies contemplates the building of a number of swift cruisers of this class for use in the approaches to great ports where trade routes converge and the chances of injury to merchant ships attain their maximum if an enemy possesses vessels suitable for employment in those regions.

This is the opinion of an expert and I am glad my hon. friend gave me an opportunity of further quoting what has been stated by so great a military authority on the British navy.

Now, shall I speak of the German scare? I think I need not refer to it. The British electorate have just answered the insinuations which were made on the platform in England to the effect that the German navy was every morning leaving the Baltic sea and ready to land on British soil and get possession of London itself.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it not claimed that the British electorate got a whack at the Lords?

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend knows better. He knows that in this election there were three issues, one as regards the Lords. It was a very strong issue which was somewhat obscured by my hon. friend's friends on the other side, by tariff reform and the German scare. Did not the great leader of the Conservative party in England, in the very last days of the election, have resort to some of the words used by a certain Socialist by the name of Blatchford? Yes, Sir, even Mr. Balfour himself stated in so many words that there was fear of a German invasion and that the British electorate should repulse that old enemy, the Radical party in England, because, forsooth, British institutions were not in safe hands. It is about the same story in England as it is in Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. By what process does my hon. friend find out what caused the remaining majority of the Liberal party, which of these three things was it that brought it about and which of the three things was it that gave the Unionists so large a gain over them? I know he has been there and understands all that—he is the one who did the business.

Mr. LEMIEUX. In 1906, when the hon. gentleman with his well known eloquence went to England to help the cause of tariff reform, the Liberal party abnormally secured a majority of over 200. My hon. friend came back to Toronto and other issues were discussed in England and the parties took to their normal level in British politics. I am in earnest in what I am saying. My hon. friend knows as a matter of fact the majority the Liberal party secured in the election of 1906 was

Mr. LEMIEUX.

abnormal, owing to circumstances that we know too well. At this last election the Liberal party came back to power with a working majority, with a substantial majority, but it is the aim of the Tory press in this country to distort the facts. Every day we hear of a coalition ministry. But Mr. Asquith is quietly resting on the continent, he is enjoying his villegiature there. He will come back in a few days. His majesty, the King, will open parliament, the budget will be adopted even by the Lords and the Liberal party, aye the Labour party which after all is only the vanguard of the Liberal party, will continue to govern Great Britain. I am, I believe, just as much a Unionist, in the better sense of the word, as my hon. friend is. I am a true Unionist, and when I speak of a Liberal majority in Great Britain, whether that Liberal majority comes from the Radical party, from the Whigs, from the Labour party, or from that island whence the ancestors of my hon. friend from Montreal Centre (Mr. Doherty) came, it is nevertheless a Liberal majority, it is a reform majority.

Mr. DOHERTY. The hon. gentleman has appealed to me as being in some way able to speak for a certain portion of that majority. I desire to say most emphatically that so far as I know them, they form part of no Liberal and equally of no Conservative party in England.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The hon. gentleman knows a great deal, but I can tell him that during the last parliament the Irish party voted on nearly every question with the Liberal party. They would be very ungrateful indeed if they did not vote with the successors of Gladstone, but they were not ungrateful. During the recent contest, after the speech delivered on the 12th of December last, by Mr. Asquith at Albert Hall in London, we received the echo of another speech delivered the day after by Mr. Redmond, in which he pledged the support of his party to the Liberal majority in the House of Commons because he knows that with the Liberal party in England they will secure home rule for Ireland.

Mr. SPROULE. May I ask my hon. friend—

Mr. LEMIEUX. Oh, I did not speak for Ulster.

Mr. SPROULE. Who was responsible for the German scare which he says the Unionists used so effectively during the elections?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will say that the German scare is the work of a very thrifty journalist by the name of Lord Northcliffe.