

adopted in this country, under the late Government, was on all fours with the policy of Australia. Nobody at that time ever talked about the Australians being disloyal because they adopted a policy of that kind, and I do not think hon. gentlemen to-day would make such a statement. A great deal, however, has been said and much adverse criticism has been made of the action taken by the majority in this House in not agreeing to the passing of a measure that was brought down by the Government last session, and in saying that the country should be consulted about the change of policy that was made. In 1909 the representatives of Canada, Australia, and Great Britain met together and discussed this whole question of naval policy, and the delegates came to the distinct understanding that Great Britain should do certain things and should supply certain ships on the Indian station and the China station. Australia on her part was to undertake to supply certain ships on the Australian station. New Zealand was to supply a dreadnought, and that dreadnought was to be made the flagship of the China squadron. Canada on her part undertook to supply certain ships, as was set forth in the Bill that was passed by the late Government. That arrangement was a sound one, and the arrangement was come to, after considerable discussion, and was made between these four parts of the British Empire. But owing to the change of Government in this country, the Conservative Government, when they came into power, thought it was right to ignore all that had been done in the past. They did not pay any attention to the solemn agreement that had been made with Australia and New Zealand. They ignored altogether the part that Canada was to play in that matter. The consequence is that in the Bill brought before the House last session, there was no arrangement made for carrying out this agreement on the Pacific ocean with regard to Australia. For the last year we have had the Hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce over in Australia, and I should think he would be able to tell his colleagues in the Government the feeling of the people of Australia with regard to the stand taken by Canada in this matter. I know that gentlemen whom I have met out on the Pacific coast, who have been to Australia and met the people there, have expressed to me surprise about the hard feeling that was apparently in existence amongst the people of Australia

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

with regard to what they called the dereliction of duty of Canada, in not carrying out the arrangement made in 1909. They feel that it is a very serious question to them. It is not one of being defended against attack by a European power, so much as a possible attack from some country that has forces in the Pacific, to the north of them, and they know that they have a fine rich country there, one that other nations look at with very longing eyes, one that has taken a great deal of time and trouble to develop and open up. They are open to attack on the Pacific Ocean and they want to see vessels there, that may be able and ready to support them. They have expressed it in this way—that the United States to-day is doing more for them and doing more to help them in this matter than Canada or Great Britain. They feel very strongly about it. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, if he would give expression to the feeling that he found amongst the Australian people, could tell his colleagues in the Government that on account of this very feeling the Australian people were not so ready to enter into any trade arrangement at that time, as they otherwise would have been. The question as it affects Australia is a question which affects the Pacific Coast of Canada in the same way, to a very large extent, and from the fact that the business connection between Australia, New Zealand and Canada is being brought close together, shipping is being developed and more trade is being done between our Pacific Coast and Australia and New Zealand. That very fact is going to bring the people of those parts of the empire in closer touch with one another, and make them think more of this very question. I therefore think that the Government in dealing with this question—as they have not said anything definite about going on with this Naval Bill this session—ought to take this side of the case into consideration. They ought to realize that, in holding the empire together, they ought to consider not only what the people of Great Britain are thinking about, but also what the people of New Zealand and Australia and South Africa are thinking about. The time has come when further consultation should be held in regard to this matter, and it would be much better to come to some very clear understanding about it before any further steps are taken. This is possibly going over old ground that has been gone over very much before. I do not want to take up much time of the House with regard to the matter but