

Japs is conducted. Why, these people knew what modern skill and science said to the practitioners of the art of war that safety lies in carrying the attack as far away as possible from the home position. What do we see in the history of America? America was wrested from the power of Great Britain by the French fleet under the Count De Grasse; and the control of America was wrested from France by Rodney in the West Indies, when he fought the French fleet off St. Eustatia, thus enabling him to break the French fleet and establish Britain's control of the ocean. These operations were conducted at the utmost distance from the home line.

Well, I take it that the present action on the part of the government is not voluntary. I believe it is due to the action of the British government in withdrawing both the troops and the fleet from Halifax. The fleet is withdrawn because it is considered that the home fleets are not adequate to the control of the situation in Europe. So, they are carrying out the plans of some of the modern statesmen in England. I am sorry to say that England to-day is under the guidance of fourth-class statesmen. They would concentrate Britain's power to cover the Mediterranean and to meet any menace on the part of Germany. They carry out a policy that will enable the fleet to protect the British Islands and British trade. They are prepared to move the fleets from Halifax and the West Indies and concentrate them in a strategic position to cover the home line. What would become of us in the event of war? Suppose we gave our million to build new ships—for it is confessed that about half the British navy is obsolete, rotten and worthless, and about half their guns no good, so that it will require a vast expenditure of money to bring the navy to a state of efficiency and give proportionate control with the fleets of Europe—suppose we give our million or two million, or whatever it may be, and war came on. The ships would be withdrawn, and we should be left to improvise a navy, as well as an army, and take such means as are necessary to defend our own country. If we had a guarantee that the British government would defend us—if we knew that was part of their policy to defend the colonies; or if we had some insight into what their military and naval program for the future is, then my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and even I, might be able to form an intelligent opinion as to how we could assist that policy. But without that knowledge we are completely in the dark. Canada would be left, as the provinces were in old times, to defend ourselves as best we could. That is what took place in what was then Canada. And the same took place on the maritime shores of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. I remember hearing, when young, the details of the noble actions fought by the privateersmen of Nova Scotia who took their lives in their hands, fitted

out their own vessels, fought both the Americans and French, and protected our shores, when an important portion of the British fleet was withdrawn to the coast of the United States the West Indies and elsewhere. And so it may be again. Great Britain may not be able to give us adequate military and naval forces; and we are wise looking to the future to commence what may be the nucleus of a permanent force. I know quite well from history and otherwise, what a native force of riflemen can do. For instance, there were the 1,500 Kentucky riflemen, who in New Orleans combatted the best regiments of Great Britain, veterans of the Peninsula, commanded by Pakenham, a lieutenant of Wellington himself. These men kept back the 42nd, the 28th, the 95th and other veteran Peninsular regiments that were thought to be invincible. And what they did such men can do again. The most formidable force known is a body of military men in ambush lying prostrate and in irregular order. If I were Minister of Militia—which I will never be—I would begin by putting the troops under my command through evolutions of the sort necessary in actual warfare. I would not have them go about the cities in scarlet uniforms and flashy toggery, marching up and down, forming fours and so on. I would send them out on expeditions such as they would require to go upon in defending the country. I would give them practice in the sort of guerilla warfare that would make them most formidable against a regular regimental force.

Now, on the subject of great guns—and I talk of that because while my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) is a small armsman, he is a great gun also—I would ask that hon. gentleman what resemblance there is between Canada and the Boers' land. I want to ask him if we have any of these mountains that exist in that country. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Sam. Hughes) is here and he can describe the topography of South Africa. And what resemblance is there between Canada and Manchuria. Where have we the mountains like those from which, in that country, the great guns were played. Now a military man like my hon. friend from North Toronto would go into the field and apply tactics totally different from those that seem to be followed by all other authorities in modern war. Well, I think he would be as much at sea as others who have unsuccessfully attempted to defend countries in different parts of the world. For my part, I would rather take one who has had experience in war than a man, who, however well versed he may be in the literature of military affairs, however, he may have studied the details of battles and sieges, whatever he may have learned, from books, of ammunition and transport, however skilful he may be in casting accounts and making tabulated statements of expenditure so as to show the exact cost for every