

does characterize our own people, as to the expression of loyalty which they have a right to expect from the Parliament of Canada. My hon. friend took the ground that the absence of any mention being made in the speech from the Throne as to the Naval Bill was manifest evidence that there was no emergency, that the emergency of a session ago ceased to continue to be the emergency of the present moment. Last session this was the position taken by hon. gentlemen, that at the time there was no emergency and that there never had been an emergency. Hon. gentlemen on the Liberal side, in both Houses, assume to speak with greater authority upon that very important question than the Admiralty authorities of Great Britain. I would have thought that it should have appealed to every reasonably minded man, that there is no authority equal to the Admiralty themselves upon that very important question: Can we for a moment conceive that members of the Canadian Parliament, or, for that matter, members of the Imperial Parliament, would have the same information upon this very important question as the members of the Imperial Government of the day, who, of necessity, were closely in touch with all the facts of the national situation, and whose political destinies depended entirely upon their meeting the exigencies and emergencies which were then presenting themselves. If there is no emergency, why is it that every nation in Europe is to-day straining every nerve, straining its finances and burdening the backs of its people with heavy taxes, in the building of armaments, and for the purpose of what?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Fattening the armour trust.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I presume that is about the measure of my hon. friend's estimate of the events happening throughout Europe. That, I fancy, is about the measure which many hon. gentlemen have adopted in weighing this very important measure. What is the meaning to-day of that which we see transpiring in Great Britain itself, where we find the great Liberal party of Great Britain to-day almost rent asunder between those who are endeavouring to meet the emergency and those who view the situation like my hon. friend from Prince Albert? Dissensions have crept into the ranks of the party as to whether they shall maintain the ratio of armament building, or shall sit down and take the chance of attack from their enemies in

Europe. So great is the emergency to-day, that it is beginning to weigh more heavily than ever upon the people of Great Britain. Germany, France, Austria and Italy are all taxing themselves to the straining point for the purpose of building up their armaments. Are they doing this for pleasure? Are they doing this unnecessarily? Are they doing this because it is easier for them to do it than not to do it? I say if there is any evidence concerning this great question, it is clear and irresistible that the national affairs of Europe are in such situation to-day as to demand from Great Britain that there shall be no cessation of building up the fleet to meet that Armageddon of the sea, which, they believe, must shortly come.

Hon. Mr. BOYER—Will my hon. friend allow me one question?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Certainly.

Hon. Mr. BOYER—Last November the authorities of the port of London advertised all through England, Scotland and Ireland for tenders for improving the port of London, which is the property of the English Government. It is a board appointed by the English Government, and by the 20th of December last a contract for an emergency expenditure entailing two millions of pounds was awarded to two German firms. Where is the emergency?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—If my hon. friend lacks the comprehension to grasp the situation as it is to-day, and as it must appear to most intelligent men, then I cannot aid him further in grasping it. I can only say that I, as an individual, and I am satisfied a majority of reasonable men, will take the pronouncement of the British Admiralty on the question rather than that of the hon. gentleman from Montreal (Hon. Mr. Boyer) or my hon. friend from Prince Albert (Hon. Mr. Davis). My hon. friend, the leader of the opposite side, has expressed his disappointment that no permanent policy has been outlined by the Government, and consequently for that reason in his opinion, the government is censurable. I would like to ask my hon. friend wherein there can be any better evidence of permanency than that embodied in the Bill of last session. It provided for three of the most powerful dreadnoughts that can be constructed and these are calculated to form the nucleus of a navy with which by their recall Canada may enter either upon its