

poses being compelled to support the Bill before the House, he would take an entirely different tack. I stated that no person would seriously contend that these preparations are being carried on, on such a very large scale simply and purely for defensive purposes. What nation on the earth has shown any desire, any determination, to cope with Germany, to attack her for a great many years past, knowing how really impossible it would be to do so successfully? Germany has to-day the largest and best trained army in the world. Germany can place as many as 4,000,000 men in the field if it is desired under system of compulsory military training; Germany's population is almost fifty per cent greater than that of England, and with all these preparations I do not think that anybody would seriously contend that it is purely for defensive purposes. Why would the German taxpayer, submissive as he has been in the past to the heavy national taxation which is imposed on him for the purpose of maintaining a very large standing army for defensive purposes, tamely submit to this largely increased taxation under the pretense that it was merely designed to protect her own shores? Every sensible man knows why these preparations are being carried on on such an immense scale. The German people recognize it, the people of England recognize it, the people of other countries of the world see it, and it is idle for us to shut our eyes to the true situation. When Britain began the Dreadnoughts a few years ago, then it was that Germany began the construction of her navy on such a large scale, realizing that future war vessels would be largely of the Dreadnought type. And, when England, through a mistaken policy, cut down by many millions of dollars their naval estimates, then it was that Germany took advantage of the apathy, and I may say the culpable negligence of certain men in public life in England, and hastened the construction of her increased naval armament.

Let any person read the expressions of public men in Germany, professors in her universities and others occupying high positions of responsibility and trust, and one cannot escape the conviction that these war preparations are for the single purpose of challenging the supremacy of the British navy. Germany has largely increased her capacity for rapid construction during the past eighteen months. By working day and night she can construct one Dreadnought or super-Dreadnought per month, or twelve in a year, and in this respect Germany is not surpassed even by Britain herself. Germany has built during the past eighteen months or has in process of completion 17 naval docks, and she has enlarged her harbours, deepened her canals and constructed her ships with the evident object of utilizing them in the home waters of the North

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sea. And still there are those who will say there is no danger, and who make their wilful blindness their excuse for refusing to contribute to strengthen the British navy. The policy of the British admiralty in the past has been to distribute the British fleets at strategic points throughout the world for the guardianship of British interests, but that policy has been to a considerable extent reversed in recent years and now the fleet is largely concentrated in home waters to protect the shores of Britain. Does that look as if England desired to engage in a war of aggression or conquest? Is it not the very best evidence that England recognizes that the war she will be called upon to fight in the future will be purely defensive. Is it not significant, especially in view of the war preparations carried on by Germany, that there is this concentration of British fleets to protect the shores of Great Britain? Germany is to-day England's commercial and political rival, and of recent years she has been outstripping England in trade. Germany by her policy of protection has built up great industries, and by her progressive legislation she has done more to advance the efficiency of her labouring classes than has any country in the universe. The products of Germany are admitted to the British markets free of duty, while the products of Britain are met at the German frontier with high tariff duties. Is it surprising under these circumstances that the German people were so anxious to see the defeat of the Unionist party in the recent British elections, with their policy of tariff reform which would strike back at Germany in commercial matters and of their policy of increased naval expenditure which would strike back at Germany in her naval policy as well? England has nothing to gain by aggressive war even if successful, save a possible war indemnity. England has her colonies for her surplus population, and she has her various naval bases at strategical positions throughout the world. England's supremacy is to-day no more a menace to the peaceful development of the German empire than at any time within the past half century. Germany is immune from attack by any other country on account of her immense standing army. England's naval supremacy is absolutely necessary for the salvation of England, so as to prevent a blockade of her ports which would result in shutting off the importation of food products upon which the population of Great Britain is dependent. England is Canada's best market, and with that market jeopardized as it undoubtedly would be in the event of war with Germany should the British fleet be crippled, how long do you suppose our prosperity in Canada would continue without any British protection for our trade routes? Some people in Canada say: We are busy with our