

and repeated it the next day at, I think, Glasgow. He had at first published a list of manufactured goods which he hoped and expected Canada would not attempt to manufacture in order to give John Bull the best of the bargain. It is now known as the hidden list, because Mr. Chamberlain, conscious of his mistake, refused to publish it with the edition of his speeches. Mr. Chairman, you know as well as I do that there are people in England who believe they belong to an aristocracy, who claim that they are superior to the colonials, and who really think that the Dominions are willing to stand such nonsense as that. If, perchance, you object to their schemes or offer any opposition to their proposals, at once they say: Well, we are not surprised—they are separatists, they are disloyal, they are foreigners; as Sir John Willison cables to the London Times. Old Samuel Johnston uttered a truism when he said that patriotism was the last refuge of a scoundrel. I say that the man who dubs me as disloyal, as a separatist or, what is worse, as a foreigner in this country, where I have eight or nine generations of ancestors behind me in the cemeteries of the province of Quebec, is a scoundrel.

The leader of the Government may be rather afraid to retrace his steps. Being the First Commoner of Canada, our standard bearer in the British Empire, the Premier of the premier Dominion of the Empire, he may well hesitate before retracing his steps. He is supposed to be advised, to have around him the wells of wisdom, and I freely admit that retracing his steps, politically speaking, may appear to be a sign of weakness. Will he allow me to offer him a bit of advice? He started on this naval scheme of his by proclaiming that Canada would share in the cost of the naval defence of the Empire, but on one condition, namely, that she should share also in the foreign policy of the Empire. This was the condition, the ultimatum of the right hon. gentleman before he left the shores of Canada last summer with his companions for England. He had several conferences with His Majesty's ministers. He knew that at the conference of 1911 Mr. Asquith, perhaps the ablest and most distinguished statesman since the days of Disraeli and Gladstone, had stated very clearly, in answer to the proposals made by Sir Joseph Ward, that the creation of an Imperial Parliament in which the Dominions would share in the foreign policies of the Empire, would be a fatal step; and that, at all events, his Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom could not share with the Dominions the direction of the political affairs of Great Britain. The right hon. gentleman went to England and had fresh conferences with both Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lewis Harcourt,

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the Colonial Secretary. The answer came, and when did it come? My right hon. friend delivered his speech upon the introduction of this measure on the 5th of December last, and there and then he repeated, speaking it seemed to me as from Ottawa to London, that this was the condition of our sharing in the naval defence of the Empire. The answer came from the Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, Secretary of State for the Colonies, who reiterated the very positive statement which had been made at the conference of 1911 by Mr. Asquith. So, Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister can well retrace his steps. He can say to the Admiralty: I offered that policy to the Dominion of Canada; I framed it on the understanding that the Government of Great Britain would consent to share with the Dominion of Canada the direction of foreign affairs. I have not succeeded in convincing the statesmen of Great Britain; therefore I am at liberty to revert to the policy which both parties in this House and in Canada accepted in 1909, namely: the establishment of a Canadian navy, maintained by Canada, equipped by Canada, manned by Canadians, and, with the consent of the Canadian Parliament, put at the service of the Mother Country in the hour of stress. Sir, I could understand my right hon. friend refusing to retrace his steps at this particular moment if the emergency which he depicted in such gloomy language on the 5th of December existed. But who speaks or thinks of an emergency to-day? Let us not befool ourselves. At present the British Government is entering into negotiations with the statesmen of the German Empire, and soon there will be hailed by the press of the Empire the news of a tacit alliance between His Majesty's Government and His Imperial Majesty's Government in Germany.

Mr. BURNHAM: That is more than your Bill did.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Even if there is not a formal alliance, we know that there is such a thing as a close friendship between civilized peoples. Were two peoples more hostile one towards the other during the past four or five hundred years than the French and the English peoples? They met on many battlefields; they sealed the fate of North America in 1759; and even a few years ago, at the time of the Fashoda affair, everybody believed that the natural sequence of events would bring war between France and Great Britain. But the common sense of the people on both sides and the diplomacy of King Edward VII brought about peace and the entente cordiale, and I thank Providence for it. There are no more hostilities of that nature between civ-