

must get them from Great Britain. By her action in connection with her reference to this surtax business, by removing her objections, she is showing that she is ready to try and cajole and dicker with the colonies. How is the British nation meeting this? What are the British people doing? They are telling us what a great people they are, they are talking of their prestige, they are recalling the days of Agincourt, but ancient history never maintained a nation. It may inspire it, but it does not maintain it. She is blowing and blustering of her own greatness. They tried the Hague conference with Germany. You have heard the story of the German ambassador at that conference. Then they tried to coax Germany. They said: We will not build any more warships if you will not, but while the British ambassadors were at the conference the Germans laid down the keels of another couple of Dreadnoughts. Then Keir Hardie, John Burns, and other British statesmen, said: We think we will try slobbering. Germany listened to them, and although Great Britain had stopped laying down keels, Germany laid another keel or two. Then she formed an alliance with France and Russia, the only sensible thing that she has done, although this had the tendency to make Germany go on and build warships. Then, a number of radical members of parliament went over, these members of parliament are splendid people to get people out at elections, but they tried their cajolery in vain on the Germans. They drank their wine, ate their bologna sausages, and toasted each other, but the Germans laid down two more keels while they were there. Then, they said we are going to strike the fatal spot; we will make arrangements with the socialists and the labouring men in England, and the socialists and labouring men in Germany, and get them to agree that they will not dig any more coal in war time. In Britain the labouring men were a unit in favour of playing the game, but in Germany the socialists mined enough coal to last five or six extra years, and that scheme fell through. Then, they tried another plan. They said: We are relatives. We have heard the First Minister at this same game. I guess he had heard of it across the water. We are relatives, we are allies, we are friends, and we are Christians with a capital 'C'. They shouted 'Hurrah for King William' and stopped building Dreadnoughts. Germany reciprocated, admits that they are relatives, allies and Christians, and they cry 'Hoch der Koenig, Edward VII. But, in the meantime they get control of the British market, get the British naval plans and lay down the keels of four or five Dreadnoughts. So that Germany has shown that she does not go duck hunting with a brass band. The Ger-

mans continue to look after their own interests and they are looking after their own interests in no uncertain way. This reminds me of an old axiom which I have already repeated to the House, but a good thing can stand repetition. It is contained in the work of one of England's finest poets, a woman in whose breast there glowed the proper spirit. I wish she had the management of affairs in Britain with the spirit which she displays in this poem. I refer to Eliza Cook:

Never trust the soft breathing that preaches  
of peace,  
With a pledge-giving lip and a smile-lighted  
eye;  
Hear it all with good-will but be provident  
still  
With men that are earnest and powder that's  
dry.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

#### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Speaker, just before six o'clock I drew attention to the fact that last year it was rumored that the German Emperor had interfered with Holland in regard to her defences. And in connection with that I shall read the following despatch which appears in the newspapers dated from the Hague on the 15th of this month:

The Hague, Feb. 15.—Baron van Heeckeren sent his promised statement to the Senate today in regard to his charge that Emperor William of Germany had told Holland that if she did not fortify certain points against Great Britain, he, the Kaiser, would be compelled to do so.

It will be recalled that when Baron van Heeckeren made the statement about 'a neighbouring sovereign' threatening Holland in regard to her military preparedness against Great Britain, the foreign minister demanded specific proofs. Later Dr. van Swinderen, the foreign secretary, denied absolutely that Queen Wilhelmina had ever received a threatening communication from the Kaiser.

In his letter to the Senate to-day Baron van Heeckeren says he received information from Dr. Kuyper, the former prime minister. He adds that the matter was frequently discussed between them.

It would thus appear that this peaceful nation of Germany has already Holland practically under her control. As I pointed out a short time ago, the German Krupp firm is not only making guns for Holland, but has charge of placing them in strategic positions, and you may be sure they will not be placed to the disadvantage of Germany. I understood the hon. member for Pictou to say that when the national policy was introduced, and when it was pointed out that it might be bad for Britain, Sir Charles Tupper said: So much the worse