

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is it not a fact that if we proceed to maintain the old ships, that would cost more than this? That is what the hon. gentleman recommends.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The old ships have, I understand, been out of commission for some time. They certainly have not been in commission since the war. What we are considering now is whether we should put new vessels into commission this year or wait until the Government has a permanent policy. We are not to-day saying that nothing shall be done as regards naval defence for Canada. What we say is that the minister should go leniently in the matter of naval expenditure until a policy is determined upon. When that policy is determined upon and is brought before Parliament, we shall be prepared to vote the money necessary to carry out that policy if it be one of which the Canadian people approve. In connection with naval matters, we have to take account, not only of naval expenditures, but of military expenditures and all war expenditures, and as my hon. friend knows, there is no comparison between such expenditures before the war and after the war. Before the war we had no expenditures to meet in the way of obligations arising out of the war. This year we have war expenditures amounting to \$171,934,464 to meet before anything is touched in the way of what may be necessary for military and naval purposes. The regular expenditure for the naval service runs to over \$2,000,000. When we are expending that amount of money in a year such as this, we can well afford to ask ourselves whether the demands of economy at the present time do not justify some caution in the matter of outlay on simply temporary expedients. It is for that reason I am going to suggest to the committee that instead of voting what the minister has asked in the Main Estimates and in the Supplementary Estimates, we give him all that he asked for when the Main Estimates were brought down, and that we strike out from the total amount what he is asking in the way of Supplementary Estimates to the amount of \$1,700,000. The Supplementary Estimates ask also for a further item of \$60,000 for the pay of temporary officers and clerks at headquarters, Halifax and Esquimalt dockyards. I think we can agree to let that item pass because it is not desired by hon. members on this side of the House in any way to interfere with the dockyards at Halifax

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

or Esquimalt or the pay of the officers and clerks who may be required there.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: Does my hon. friend think that for the small sum of \$300,000 Canada can maintain dockyards at Halifax and Esquimalt? If he does, he is very much mistaken.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then how did the minister dare to come to this Parliament with his Main Estimates containing an item of only \$300,000, and make a statement before this House on naval matters, when all the time he knew that what he was asking was not sufficient to carry out what he was pretending to the country he intended to do? I say that something is owing by the Ministry to Parliament, and if the Ministry is going to ignore Parliament it is high time for Parliament to begin to ignore the Ministry. Let me say further, that hon. gentlemen know or they ought to know by this time, that they have no mandate from the people in matters of naval affairs one way or the other. They have never had an expression of the people's views as to what is desired in the matter of these expenditures. So far as they know the people's opinion at all, it is that the people do not want them entrusted with the expenditure of another five-cent piece. We on this side of the House would be thoroughly justified if we held up every item of supply until the Government recognized the wave of popular indignation against them that is sweeping this country and gave the people of this country an opportunity to return to this Parliament men who are representative of the will of the country and are prepared to carry that will into effect. In this matter of naval expenditure I say that the people of Canada are not with the minister in the demand he is making at the present time for this amount of money. Until there is a permanent naval policy, and until that policy has been approved by Parliament, we are justified in saying that we will hold down to the minimum any expenditures that the Government ask for in regard to Naval Service. I therefore move that we strike out from the Supplementary Estimates the sum of \$1,700,000 and save, if possible, to the country that amount of unnecessary expenditure by this Government.

Mr. FIELDING: May I suggest that we pass the item of \$300,000, and then vote if necessary on the second item.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: I am sorry I cannot agree to the suggestion. As soon as we took