

his back, may at some future date cast to the winds every principle of the British North America Act, and use this navy as a weapon to drive minorities into doing something against their will and against the guarantees that they have by the constitution. I think minorities would be safe if the Bill followed the words of Sir George E. Cartier. That gentleman had sustained great struggles, and had fought great battles on behalf of certain interests in this country. When the right hon. leader of this House proposes to remove any of those safeguards, I say he is not doing justice to every section of the community. While there may be no danger, whilst he is Prime Minister, still no man can be assured of a long tenure of life, nor can he expect to rule forever, and the danger may come after he has gone.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am glad the hon. gentleman recognizes that so long as I am Prime Minister he will not have reason to deplore the evils which he sees coming on. But I must say that in this matter we do not depart from the language of Sir George E. Cartier; on the contrary, it is a fact that the language in this clause is in accordance with the best traditions of Sir George E. Cartier, and with his language also.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Why not then follow the exact words of Sir George E. Cartier?

Mr. HUGHES. I want to ask the First Minister a question; there may be something in it and there may not be. Does he maintain that this parliament has the right to create a navy independent of the imperial navy for war purposes? I am free to admit that this parliament has conferred upon it by the British North America Act power to recognize a Canadian militia, which, of course, would be controlled by parliament. But when it comes to creating a navy which means a force to take part in war against a foreign nation, does the First Minister maintain that this parliament has authority to create a Canadian navy?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is my pretention, and I think that has been the pretention from the first day of confederation.

Section 4 agreed to.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I now move the amendment of which I gave notice this morning about the organization of the department:

Section 4a. There shall be a department of the government of Canada which shall be called the Department of the Naval Service, over which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for the time being shall preside, and shall be the Minister of the Naval Service.

Amendment agreed to.

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Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I now move the following as section 4b:

Section 4b. The Governor in Council may also appoint an officer who shall be called the deputy minister of the naval service, who shall be the deputy head of the department, and may also appoint such other officers and clerks as are requisite for the due administration of the business of the department, each of which shall hold office during pleasure.

Amendment agreed to.

On section 6,

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would like to get some information as to the construction and purchase of the vessels that are contemplated. I would like to know where they are to be built, and when; also, what is to be the character of the plant, where the guns and arms are to be manufactured, and generally some information respecting matters that have not been touched upon to any extent so far.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I stated in the debate which took place on the second reading, that it was the intention of the government, if at all practicable, to have these ships built in Canada. I cannot speak definitely upon that because this is a matter which, I think, cannot be definitely determined to-day, but it is our intention to ask for tenders, and we will be guided by the tenders which we receive as to whether or not they shall be built in Canada or whether we shall build them abroad.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. There is no determination yet?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The government has no definite idea as to what place within Canada it will select?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not think it will be possible to make any selection to-day. That would depend on whether the tenders we receive are satisfactory.

Mr. DANIEL. Where will the headquarters of these vessels be when they are purchased or built?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The headquarters of these vessels will depend upon their distribution. I stated this morning that at the present time we have several ships which are doing protective service in connection with fisheries. I have no doubt that in the course of time these ships will be superseded by the ships we are going to build. Some of these ships are doing duty on the shores of Nova Scotia, and one is in the Bay of Fundy. It would not be possible to determine their headquarters at the present time.

Mr. DANIEL. Has the government determined where the headquarters of the