

to develop their own manhood in the absolute freedom wherein alone true manhood can flourish—freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of trade, freedom of policy. For this we needed a paramount navy and a strong army, not necessarily very large but absolutely efficient. Therefore reform of the War Office was a cardinal point in his programme. He had been Secretary for War himself, and hoped he had done something. But the red-tape and hide-bound traditions were appalling in their strength; and he asked for the support of the country in future efforts to render the War Office a business-like place. Men were sometimes staggered at the huge sums spent on armaments; but they must remember that this was simply national insurance-money. A weak navy meant a powerless England; and a powerless England meant war.

"This," said the speaker in conclusion, "is the programme which I have to set before you. It is for you to accept or to refuse. Nevertheless I am not very careful as to how you may answer me in this matter; for I am convinced that the great end which I have in view shall finally be accomplished either by you or by your children's children, rough-hew it how you will with petty jealousies and party strife.

"There are some privileges which no one can refuse—some prerogatives no one can forego; and one of these is the glory of being an Englishman. You, the people of England, are the kings of England. You were anointed with the blood of your fathers, shed in the cause of freedom; you were crowned with the laurels which they won. From them you have inherited the Divine right of kingship—a right which no one, not even yourselves, can take away from you. Therefore as kings I do you homage; and as kings I bid you look well to your ways, and recognize the responsibilities of your office, lest you should be weighed in the balance and found wanting—lest