

toric, in the face of facts, not only known to the laymen of Canada, but set forth with great particularity by the experts of the admiralty!

I could go on and refer to the speech of the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. E. M. Macdonald). I could refer to the speech, the volcanic eruption from Red Deer. Usually that gentleman is content to belch forth the burning lava of Cobdenism on his friends in this House, and especially, *infandum dictu*, on our own and only Cobden-medalist, until that right hon. gentleman finds himself buried and suffocated in the slag and ashes and forgotten things, of a dead doctrine. I could refer to the other speeches, but I wish to repeat in conclusion that manly, robust Canadianism is well content with a fleet if it conforms to these conditions: it may be a fleet built and equipped in Canada by Canadians, officered, manned and provisioned by Canadians, but it must be an integral part of the imperial navy just as Canada herself is an integral part of the British empire. Canada has grown on the gaze of the world, a signal example of internal expansive energy, but Canada has not yet found herself, Canada has not yet realized the significance of her peculiar, her unique position in the empire, and has not been fruitful in the more salient and striking characteristics of nationhood. How can that be brought about? Let us cease to seek shelter under, let us cease to be parasites upon, the British taxpayer and the American taxpayer. Let us give, and give at once, to the imperial navy, which all admit is the best guarantee of Canada's future greatness and safety. Let us remember that armed and equipped by nature with all the wealth of boundless wheatfields, of inexhaustible mineral resources, of vast forests and teeming fisheries, Canada occupies in the British family in these vigorous latitudes of the north, a peculiar, a pivotal position. Midway between Europe and Asia, midway between Europe and Australia, on the direct line of commerce between the occident and the orient, stands Canada, that young giant of the north, with hands outstretched, the one for the trade and commerce of the Atlantic, the other for the new and growing trade of the Pacific. How essential to that trade and to the protection of that trade it is that the imperial navy shall continue to be our navy, and shall continue to hold the supremacy of the seas. With these two conditions satisfied, who will deny that Canada, owing to that central position she occupies in the empire's circle, will one day become the centre of the merchant fleet, the commercial progress and the transportation facilities of the British empire. Long may the day be distant when any party or propaganda in Canada will be able to swing the pendulum of our destiny

outside that empire circle; that circle within which lies not only our present freedom and liberties, but our future permanence and greatness as a people, a nation and an empire.

Mr. RALPH SMITH (Nanaimo.) I find as such difficulty in controlling the argument of my hon. friend (Mr. Cowan) as he and my good friend the member for New Westminster (Mr. Taylor) found when they were operating that balloon on their fishing trip last summer. I have listened carefully to every word my hon. friend (Mr. Cowan) has said and to every argument he has tried to present, and I say that no hon. member in this House has submitted to this parliament a depreciation of the leading men of this country in any way equal to the denunciations of the hon. member. He began by telling the House how very important it was that we should eliminate politics from this debate, and I submit to the intelligence of every fair-minded man in this parliament that the hon. gentleman strayed very far from his own advice. He went on to argue in his own way that the Prime Minister was propagating, preaching and proclaiming a doctrine of absolute independence and that he was using his influence at every opportunity upon the hustings in certain portions of this country in favour of a spirit of alienation from Great Britain. Mr. Speaker, that is a charge not against the Prime Minister but against the intelligence of the British people in this country. There is no one man in this country to-day—even if the Prime Minister had the disposition the hon. member speaks of—strong enough to use an influence that could alienate the attachment that the great mass of the Canadian people have for Britain and British institutions. But that is not the doctrine that hon. gentlemen opposite preach all the time. In one portion of the country they cry out that the right hon. gentleman is too British, and in another portion of the country they declare—and I know full well where that portion of the country is—that the right hon. gentleman is not British enough. We never have gone through a federal campaign in British Columbia, but that the principal declaration of hon. gentlemen opposite is—the repeated statement that the Prime Minister of Canada is not loyal to British sentiment, or to the interests of the people of the west. No question has ever been submitted to this parliament of greater importance or of more far reaching effect, and no question was ever submitted to this parliament that ought to receive the sober deliberation, of this House more than the question now under discussion. And yet I submit, Sir, and I think the members of this House will agree with me, that tonight we have had to listen for two hours to the performance of a political mountebank.