

relations between the mother country and the self-governing dominions the payment of any stated contribution to the imperial treasury for naval and military purposes would not, in so far as Canada is concerned, be a satisfactory solution of the question of defence.

We stand to it to-day. We do not believe in paying regularly and periodically a contribution to the motherland. We are in favour of paying an emergency contribution to-day to keep our flag flying because it is better to be sure than sorry, in the meantime and how cheaply we would all feel if the British fleet should happen to be defeated for lack of the two Dreadnoughts which Canada could have supplied. That is the policy we favour to-day. We are not in favour though of paying that regularly because before many years shall have elapsed some systematic form of naval assistance will have been devised.

3. This House will cordially approve of any necessary expenditure designed to promote the organization of a Canadian naval service.

Does the government provide a speedy service? How can they have the hardihood to ask hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to support such a resolution? There is no speedy contribution about it. We are standing by the resolution. We want something done 'speedy'.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. HUGHES. I do not refer to a boat going up and down grafting for hon. members on the other side; I refer to the resolution that something should be done quickly. I see that some of my right hon. friends over there think I mean the 'Speedy,' and have reference to graft, &c

This House will cordially approve any necessary expenditure designed to promote the organization of a Canadian naval service in co-operation with and in close relation to the imperial navy.

Is that the policy proposed by the government—'in co-operation'? Co-operation is something mutual. This is a jug-handled, lop-sided plan. They may say: We will not go. We, on this side, desire that the plan shall be co-operative. When Britain is in trouble we will help her, and when we are in trouble we want Britain to help us. We may think that the condition of our stomachs is such that we cannot allow the navy to go and help Great Britain when our help is needed.

Mr. J. P. TURCOTTE. You want some millions.

Mr. HUGHES. If the millions go in graft in the harbour of Quebec and in the constituencies along the shores of the counties in various parts of that province the hon. gentlemen will not kick, but so long

Mr. HUGHES.

as they go to keep the old flag flying in Quebec there is a kick.

In close relation to the imperial navy.

Our policy is that our fleet should be part of the imperial navy. There is no measurable distance in connection with it.

Along the lines suggested by the admiralty.

These gentlemen in no sense have followed the lines suggested by the admiralty. Yet, they have the hardihood to ask us to support such a resolution.

Another clause of the resolution is:

In full sympathy with the view that the naval supremacy of Britain is essential to the security of commerce, the safety of the empire and the peace of the world.

But, the government in reserving to themselves the right to say whether or not that navy shall take part in a war in which Britain is engaged are departing from an essential part of the resolution of last year. The resolution concludes:

The House expresses its firm conviction that whenever the need arises the Canadian people will be found ready and willing to make any sacrifice that is required to give to the imperial authorities the most loyal and hearty co-operation in every movement for the maintenance of the integrity and honour of the empire.

The policy of the government departs from that. How can they have the nerve to stand up and ask us to join them in such a measure as they propose to-day. We are told there is no danger for the British empire. Well, Sir, what does the history of the world show. Thousands of years before the birth of Christ there was as great a nation as Britain is to-day, a nation relatively even greater. The Phœnician nation had all the liberties that Britain has to-day in many respects. Her ships traded in every sea, Carthage was a colony, Sardinia and Corsica were colonies, the Balearic islands, the southern part of Spain and parts of the British islands were colonies. The ships of the Phœnicians traded all along the northern coast of Africa, down the west coast, around the Cape of Good Hope, and to the distant Indies; their caravans crossed every desert. It was that nation that furnished the Christian world with the religion of one God; it was that nation that furnished the world with the alphabet, the principles of mathematics, and the learning which has graced and benefited humanity. They had everything the heart could desire, and yet that nation fell. The Grecian states in succession rose and fell, other nations in the east rose and fell. In the year 256 B. C., the first Punic war came, Rome knew that Carthage had succeeded Phœnicia as mistress of the seas,