

House—both the Main Estimates and the Supplementary—I think he will find very grave cause for serious reflection.

The Main Estimates, if my figures are correct, amount to the stupendous sum of \$537,000,000, and the Supplementary Estimates as brought down yesterday or to-day amount to another \$62,000,000. And, Mr. Chairman, if what we hear around the corridors and in statements made by hon. members and on the Votes and Proceedings is true, "the worst is yet to come." Now, these two amounts total some \$600,000,000 which the people of Canada will have to pay in taxes this year. I think that after listening to the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance (Sir Henry Drayton) every hon. gentleman in this House should deem it his solemn duty to guard very carefully every vote which is made for the public service, and if it is at all possible to effect a saving in regard to any particular service it is the duty of every member who is imbued with a sense of responsibility to see that that saving is made. In my humble opinion we certainly could save most of the money which the Minister of Naval Affairs is asking us to vote to-night, and it is our duty at least to endeavour to persuade him to save it. In the Estimates which we are to vote we find that we have to raise the sum of \$142,000,000 to pay interest on the debt and to provide for a sinking fund; on pensions, to protect our wounded soldiers and to take care of the widows and orphans of the gallant men who fell in the war, we have to raise another \$27,000,000; in the Militia Department we intend to spend \$12,500,000; in regard to Railways and Canals, no less a sum than \$57,000,000; whilst for demobilization, to clean up war work, we have to spend the sum of 39,000,000. Of course, most of these items are necessary. Railways, like the poor, we have always with us; and we cannot escape the liability which has been forced upon the country in that respect. We must also shoulder our responsibility in connection with the returned soldiers. We must demobilize them and pay them off, and I am sure that every man and woman in the country, if the present condition of the country's finances were not so deplorable, would not only spend \$27,000,000 but twice that amount. As I have repeatedly stated, however, we should certainly not spend one dollar more than is absolutely necessary to-day, and in view of the tremendous demands that are being made upon us, we should be exceedingly economical. Mr. Chairman, I do not think that we should do anything that would seem, so to

[Mr. Duff.]

speak, "to grind the face of the poor"; and I think I am safe in saying that Canada to-day can be designated as a poor nation, in view of the heavy burden of taxation which we will have to face for the next generation.

The second ground on which I intend to vote against this estimate is this. I consider that what the Minister of Naval Affairs proposes to do either now or in the near future will be absolutely ineffective for defensive purposes. What did the minister tell us in his speech the other day in regard to the cruisers and other boats which he intends to get this year? He referred to the generous gift of the Mother Country to Canada. Well, so far as that is concerned, I am sure that we all appreciate the fact that the Old Country has offered us a gift. But, Sir, we should bear in mind that we are "daughter in our mother's house, but mistress in our own," and it is our duty primarily as citizens of Canada to say whether or not we shall accept that gift. Now, the gift in question comprises one cruiser, two torpedo boat destroyers and two submarines; and the cruiser, as I said in my few remarks the other day, is practically no better than the Niobe, which is going to be sold or broken up for junk.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: On what does the hon. gentleman base his opinion? The Niobe, of course, I admit at once is obsolete. But in view of the statement I made the other day, which will be seen in Hansard, that the cruiser we are to get is a modern ship—I gave the armament, etc.—on what assumption does my hon. friend base his argument that she is obsolete and is as useless as the Niobe?

Mr. DUFF: I thought I heard some other hon. gentleman opposite saying something. I would like him to get up and tell us what he said.

The minister why in my opinion the cruiser he intends to accept from the British Government is no better than the Niobe. I intended to give him my reasons for that and I would be glad to attempt to convince the minister that for the purpose for which the cruiser will be used the Niobe will do just as good work as the cruiser the minister is going to get. The cruiser that he proposes to accept has a displacement of 4,800 tons, length 453 feet breadth 47 feet, draft 16.8 feet, speed 25½ knots fuel capacity 1,345 tons of coal and oil consumption 260 tons. This is not a very large boat. The minister tells us that this cruiser was built in 1916.