

have not lost sight of the necessity of early steps being taken in relation to those matters. Apart from the propriety of the Imperial Government defending an outlying portion of the British Empire, there is the more direct necessity for defending its own dockyard, naval stores, and base of supplies, which now lie exposed.

HON. MR. DICKEY—Before the Minister rises to express the opinion of the Government upon this question I should like to know whether my hon. friend who has made the motion has taken into consideration the propriety or the expediency of giving the information which is asked for by his motion? My hon. friend has spoken of a restless and watchful enemy who is anxiously looking out in reference to the subject matter of that motion, and who will naturally be very anxious to get the confidential communications that pass between the two Governments. Of course that is a matter which must be left entirely in the discretion of the Government as to whether those communications are of such a character that they should be produced in the public interest. But there may be doubt possibly as to whether all communications are of that character, and the Government will of course exercise their discretion to see that that "watchful enemy," whatever country it may be, will not gain any advantage by getting access to the private communications between the two Governments on such a delicate subject. As my hon. friend has been kind enough, by way of supporting his motion, to refer to the fortifications and guns on the Atlantic coast in Nova Scotia, I think I am justified at the present moment in stating that the people of Nova Scotia intend to stand by those guns.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.)—It is entirely for the Government to bring down what they think is advisable, but this "restless enemy" knows as well as we do now that our coasts are defenceless. They are vigilant and active and know just the position we stand in. The English Government never conceal anything from anybody. Their arsenals

are open to the inspection of every nation; they tell what they are doing and what they are going to do and everything is open and above board.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—He must be an extreme optimist who will say that quarrels will not crop up sometimes, and they may arise near our own doors, especially at the present moment. As regards British Columbia and the dockyard there, I may say I was in that country sometime last year and was surprised to find that in the past our interests on the Pacific coast were not respected; that foreign nations had dominated the approaches and command of the harbours on that coast. I am sure if Canada, at the passing of the last treaty, had had a say in it, we would not have parted with as much territory as we have lost; neither would we have lost the commanding position which we should possess on the Pacific coast. Through the kindness of my hon. friend behind me (Mr. Macdonald) I had the pleasure of visiting the naval dockyard at Esquimalt and seeing that harbour. It seemed to me to be a harbour easily fortified. It is commanded by prominent bluffs; the water is deep and it can be made without difficulty almost impregnable. There is a dry dock there, which particularly attracted my attention, but it seems to me that even at this time that dry dock is not large enough for the requirements of the present day.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—It has not been extended yet.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I thought it had been extended, and it seemed to me to be insufficient to take in the large class of ocean steamers.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.)—It is 450 feet long.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Even with a dock 450 feet long it is not of sufficient size to take in the Atlantic line steamers, and if anything could be done to extend that dock now while the plant and appliances are yet there, I am sure it would involve much less expense than it can