

the Nationalist leader at the great Ontario rink meeting following the victory, and he received equally enthusiastic plaudits from the immense gathering. He was hailed by Mr. Bourassa on that occasion as the leader in the movement for the support of national autonomy. As a public speaker, Mr. Monk furnishes a rather striking contrast to Mr. Bourassa. He has less of the Gallic fire and more of the Saxon composure. But he is a forceful and convincing speaker who thoroughly weighs what he has to say and says it with clearness and precision. A commanding presence increases his power over an audience. I have more than once discussed the naval question with Mr. Monk, and there is no ambiguity about his views. He has been charged with disloyalty, has even been branded as a traitor to his country and his party, but he has never swerved in his course. People are at liberty to differ from him, but he can at least claim that he has been consistent in the course he has followed.

Mr. Monk's contentions are, briefly:

"1. That the navy policy of the Government, the decisions of the Imperial Conference of 1902, the change in our relations with the Empire have intentionally been removed from all expression of popular opinion and the freedom of that expression denied by the Government, though it was claimed by petition from many thousands of electors from every part of Canada.

"2. That the construction of the fleet proposed by the Government is to be condemned as involving a useless and ill-considered expenditure not calculated to help the Empire and violating the principle of representation, while placing upon the Canadian people responsibilities which it was eminently unfair to ask of them to assume under such intolerable conditions.

"3. That the enormous sums urgently needed at once for necessary works of development in Canada, such as canals, railways, and other aids to transportation must tax to the very utmost our available resources and credit and that the expenditure absolutely required for the navy could not now be undertaken."

The result in Drummond and Arthabaska, Mr. Monk holds, is a vindication of his attitude, and he further maintains that the appeal that was there made was one that could properly be urged