

to me our expenditure could be met, and Canada could be furnished with a navy, or, at least, a very good beginning of a navy, consisting of up to date vessels, without putting a heavy burden upon any person. In fact, so slight will be the burden if we adopt these other methods I have referred to, that, I believe, it could be borne with very little inconvenience. And, while things were pretty good, in fact splendid, along agricultural lines at the present time, I believe that, as 'preparation for war is the best guarantee of peace,' so, in matters of trade, I believe that in good times it is good policy to prepare for bad times. And I believe that the better we are prepared for bad times, the less bad times we shall have. Though there might be some objection at present, to raising the tariff on agricultural products, I do not think the tariff has very much bearing to the consumers on prices at the present time for it does help the producers. But, I think it would be a good thing for us to provide for dull times—not that they are likely to occur in Canada, but they will occur in other countries which will then try to dump their products into Canada in unfair competition with our own, and if we provide at the present time, when, perhaps, there is not so much need for it, for the difficult times that overtake the world generally, which we in Canada, I believe, will feel much less than the average country, but which, with proper precautions, I believe we can provide against feeling at all.

Returning to the construction of the navy, I believe in that construction being made in Canada—not merely assembling the work here, but rolling our plates here, and making the nickel steel that goes into these armoured cruisers and converting it into armour plate here. I believe that the concern undertaking the construction of the navy for \$12,000,000 will spend \$25,000,000 in providing materials and plant. I do not mean to say that they will expend \$25,000,000 and sell the product at \$12,000,000. But foreseeing the establishment of a merchant marine ports in Canada, they will build their plant and equipment accordingly, and will spend by way of starting that industry in Canada at least \$25,000,000 before the \$12,000,000 worth of war vessels is built. That will stimulate the construction of a merchant marine, and establish a ship-building industry in Canada upon quite an extensive scale. From some newspaper reports I have seen, and from remarks I have heard on the floor of the House, it is expected that a British company will get the order for building the navy, but it is yet uncertain whether they will do a large part of the work here, or merely assemble here, after building the docks. But I think by the time the government advertises for bids for the construction and delivery of this

Mr. SEALEY.

navy, they will have a bid from a concern entirely Canadian, who will be able to do the work at least as low as any other company. Of course the government will accept the lowest tender, and if a British firm chances to be the lowest, the government will oblige this firm to submit to the same conditions of construction and equipment in Canada as they would a Canadian firm.

Now, as to whether a Canadian navy will be an assistance to the British navy and of assistance to the empire, we have to remember what was said by the Prime Minister on the introduction of the Bill, that when England is at war, Canada is at war. I think that declaration should be sufficient evidence and guarantee that there will be no hesitation in placing the fleet at the command of the British admiralty in case of war. In keeping the navy under the control of the Canadian parliament, we are simply following the precedent of Australia and of other countries. You might as well say that our militia should be at the beck and call of Lord Roberts, as to say that our navy should be at the beck and call of the British admiralty. That is not practicable in time of peace, but in time of war it will be so. As to whether a contribution of \$25,000,000 will be of more assistance to the empire than a \$12,000,000 navy, I think we can consider what took place in the Russo-Japanese war. We are told that the Russian money chests were filled with gold, but their gold availed them very little when they met the war vessels of Japan on the open sea. Neither \$25,000,000 of Canadian money, or Canadian notes, or promises to pay at some future day, would be of any advantage to the British admiralty, but a Canadian fleet, I am satisfied, would be of infinitely more advantage. I am satisfied that a Canadian navy, acting in conjunction with other fleets of the empire, will be of infinitely more value to the empire than any cash contribution we can make.

Now, I think, Sir, that every member of this House has a right to his own opinion, and I am going to express mine. We have heard a great deal said in this House about the German menace and the German war scare for months back. Personally, I have no faith in the German scare. I think it has been largely got up by the dukes and lords, and perhaps by the British admiralty. The dukes and lords have been inclined to champion unsound doctrines, they own the greater part of the land of Britain, and have been endeavouring year after year to shunt their responsibilities off on people who have much less; and now, when the dukes, and lords, and land-owners are likely to be called upon to pay their fair share, they have created the German scare in order to induce the colonies to contribute and relieve them of a part of their burden. However that may