

tal question, I should like to know if the Government will take steps to protect Canadian seamen against the unfair competition of coolie labour on board British ships engaged in coastwise trade.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): The matter has been engaging the attention of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and steps are being taken to meet the views of my hon. friend.

SUPPLY

NAVAL SERVICE

The House again in Committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the Chair:

Naval Service—To provide for the maintenance of the Royal Canadian Navy, \$1,500,000.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I believe, a year ago last December, there was a balance of some \$115,000 due from the New Brunswick Roller Mills in connection with the sale of the Niobe. Has that balance yet been paid?

Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (Minister of the Naval Service): The situation is this. The Niobe and two submarines were sold for \$135,000; \$20,000 was paid and the balance remained. The Government took action against the purchasers to recover the balance due; but discovered, through the Justice Department, that there was not much to be realized, and that the best thing they could do, acting on the advice of that department was, as some say, to run to cover. As a result the department got back the Niobe, \$5,000 in money, and the amount of costs. The Niobe was advertised for sale by auction recently and sold for some \$41,000.

Mr. EULER: Has the money been paid?

Mr. GRAHAM: A cheque has been received for it.

Mr. CALDWELL: To whom was she sold?

Mr. GRAHAM: To an American firm, H. B. Hintner's Sons Co., I believe.

Mr. CALDWELL: What was the original cost of the Niobe?

Mr. GRAHAM: I cannot answer off-hand; I will get that information and submit it later.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I have that information available. The original cost was \$1,200,000. Do I understand that the total amount received by the Government for the Niobe and two submarines was \$60,000?

Mr. GRAHAM: It was \$66,000 odd.

Mr. CHURCH: When the House adjourned the other evening I was discussing the naval policy, past and present, of the Liberal party in regard to Canada's contribution towards maritime freedom, and I shall conclude my remarks in, I trust, a very few minutes. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) intimated to the House that the policy of the party which he leads was, is now, and ever shall be, the provision of adequate support to the naval forces of the Empire. May I ask the hon. gentleman if he considers that a miserable contribution of 17 cents per head on the part of our people is Canada's conception of what she owes Great Britain for the maritime freedom that has always been afforded her? The Mother Country this year is spending \$400,000,000 on naval defence, which works out at about \$10 per head of her population. And, as I pointed out the other night, Australia is spending some £3,245,000, which, taking into account the exchange, represents between \$16,000,000 and \$17,000,000, or about \$3.10 per head of the population of the Commonwealth. With a population of 9,000,000 in Canada, estimates are brought down in this House for \$1,500,000; last year it was \$2,500,000; this year it figures out at about 16½ cents per head of population. Again I ask my hon. friend who leads the Government and Liberal party, is this his conception and the conception of the Liberal party of Canada's responsibility in the great patriotic question of maritime freedom? Was that the view of the late Hon. George W. Ross, the leader of the government party in the Senate in 1910-11? Or is it the conception of the Liberal party as laid down in their 1911 campaign literature in which they give one hundred and one reasons for maintaining an adequate fleet unit that would not only protect Canada's harbours and shores, but, in time of emergency, would, like the Australian fleet in the late war, render signal assistance in sweeping an enemy fleet from the Atlantic or Pacific or any other ocean? This policy which it is sought to be established is far from adequate. I say, on the shoulders of the Prime Minister and his Government rests the responsibility of upholding the honour and dignity of this country and of giving Canada maritime protection. The duty is their's, as long as they are there, to see to it that nothing shall be done which may hinder this Dominion from vindicating itself in case of peril. On their shoulders is the burden of the naval defence of Canada.