

mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, but which have been discussed in this debate. I wish to express my pleasure and the pleasure of all Canadians that Her Royal Highness was able to come back to Canada. Every Canadian thanked God that Her Royal Highness was spared, and will pray that Their Royal Highnesses will be spared for many years to come, and that Canada will have the honour to keep the present Governor General as long as possible.

I have listened very attentively to the speeches which have been made in this House on the Address, and particularly to the speech made by the hon. leader of the Opposition in this House. He spoke as usual with great eloquence and clearness, and in the finest English, but to my surprise he devoted at least half of his remarks, if not more, to two questions which were not even mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. This indicates to me that the hon. gentleman's conscience is not at rest yet because of the way he treated those Bills last session, and the work he did to have them defeated, one of them twice, and the other once. The hon. gentleman and his followers killed those two Bills, yet they do not seem satisfied that they acted in the best interest of this country. The hon. gentleman devoted fully twenty-five minutes to a discussion of the Naval Bill, and almost as much to a discussion of the Highways Bill, which was presented twice in this House, and was defeated by the Liberal majority of the Senate. It is not my intention to speak on the Naval Bill. Every member of the House knows my opinion on the subject. I stated last session what I believed was best for this country, and I gave my reasons for supporting the measure. I stated, and I still believe, that, in the interest of Canada, the Bill which was presented by the Right Hon. Mr. Borden was the best Bill which could be framed. During the last general elections, and prior to it, every one in Canada knew what was the policy of the hon. leader of the Government on that important measure. In all the speeches which he made in the House and outside of it, he stated that if the majority of the electors of this Dominion placed him at the head of the Government, his first act would be to go to England, and inquire from the Admiralty as to the best policy for Canada to adopt to come to the help of the navy of the Mother Country. What did the right hon. gentleman do? After the election in 1911 he went to inquire of the Admiralty if there was really an emergency—a fact which has been admitted by

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the hon. leader of the Opposition of this House only last week. That hon. gentleman stated from his seat in the Senate that there was still an emergency and a great demand from England to be helped by her most important colony, Canada. We know very well that our trade is increasing rapidly. Our trade on the high seas is over half a billion dollars per annum, and we have always been protected by England, without contributing one cent towards protection of the high seas. And now that we have eight millions of people and are able to help the mother country, are we to continue to refuse our support and refuse to help the empire in protecting our trade on the high seas? I do not believe that the great majority of the people of Canada will consent to this country taking that position, and that at the next general election the present Government will be returned to power, and instructed to force this House to obey their commands. It will be found after a next general election that it is not the Senate that will have the lead. It is not an irresponsible chamber that will have a right to oppose the will of the people. We know what the policy of the Government is and has been. The reason given by the hon. gentlemen of the Opposition in the Senate last year for opposing the Naval Bill was not on account of the expenditure it involved, but because we were sending three empty shells to England—because, as he said, we had not the courage to man those ships. We know very well that the Canadian people are as proud and courageous as any other population in the world, but we know at the same time that the offer of the present Government was accepted by the Imperial authorities, and that the three dreadnoughts were to be loaned to England and not presented as a gift—our Government reserving the right to re-call those three ships if at any time the people of Canada should decide to establish a navy of their own.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—Was that in the Bill?

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—It was stated openly in the House, and you have the word of the Prime Minister and the word of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—But the Cabinet cannot ignore the law. When it is not in the Bill, there is no such provision.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—My hon. friend forgets one fact: with the late Government