

An Insult to Britain.

Fincherson said, 'Hitch your wagon to a star' if you are going to rise. To what does my hon. friend hitch his wagon? Or does he hitch it at all? He stands passively by and says it will be an insult to Great Britain if we attempt to build a Canadian navy. Britain did not say that with regard to the Act of 1910. It was approved of by His Majesty's government. If it had been an insult to Great Britain the British Government would not have assented to it, they would have thrown it in the waste paper basket. Let us not depreciate ourselves. No good can come to a man who sits in sack-cloth and ashes in self-abasement and humiliation, crying out against the fates that made his position severe. The man who takes his marching orders from some prophet or seer, or great leader, is the man who keeps up with the procession. I hope no member of the Senate will entertain the idea that we cannot build ships. Mr. Borden, the leader of the government had no such idea at one time. Listen to what he said in Halifax on the 14th day of November, 1900:

One governing principle, at least, should control, namely, that out of our own materials, by our own labour, and by the instructed skill of our own people any necessary provision for our naval defence should be made so far as may be reasonably possible. In this connection may we not hope that there shall be given a stimulus and encouragement to the shipbuilding industry of Canada which has long been lacking. To-day should be Nova Scotia's opportunity in that regard. Providence has endowed this province with the material, with the men, and with the maritime situation, which are essential not only for developing a scheme of naval defence and protection, but also for the resuscitation of that shipbuilding industry which once made Nova Scotia famous throughout the world.

Did he say it would be an insult to Great Britain, if Canada built a navy? Who stands on the highest plane? The man who leads the government in the other House or my hon. friend who is ill-advised in using such a term. I know it is not his conviction. He rose himself to a high position of wealth and influence just because he had the courage to seize opportunities as they rose, and he is worthy of the honour he has gained, but let him not tell the Senate that to place a Canadian navy at the disposal of Great Britain would be an insult.

Fundamental Principles.

Let me lay down two or three fundamental principles in connection with this matter. The first fundamental principle is that nothing will live or thrive in the life or institutions of Canada, or of any country, that does not appeal to national sentiment. That is fundamental. You cannot build up a country, no matter what it is, except on that foundation. It is true of China to-day, is it true of Japan, it has been true of England for one thousand years. Britannia rules the waves, why? Because she has the sentiment that that is her business, and that nobody else has a right to interfere with that prerogative. And the sentiment of the British empire is that she is to be defended at all hazards, no matter where she is assailed. She will fight her Waterloo in the face of a combined Europe if necessary. She will fight her battles in the Soudan against sixty thousand or the Mahdi's followers. She will keep in hand two hundred and forty millions in India, because nobody dare question her authority now, as they did sometime ago? Why. It is the national sentiment that she was born to rule, not only to rule the waves, but to dominate the whole