

Toronto Globe, because he would not have found in that journal an editorial on the navy to his liking. The Toronto Globe approved of this expenditure and approved of the Government policy in every respect. As I judge public opinion, I am quite satisfied that the great majority of Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific, irrespective of race or creed, not only are heartily in favour of what the Government proposes to do at the present time, but I am sure they will approve of Canada doing more than she is doing now when a permanent naval policy is decided upon, irrespective of what Government happens to be in power in 1921. My hon. friend will have an opportunity two years from now, or probably a little later, to test out public opinion upon a permanent naval policy for this country.

Mr. DUFF: The sooner the better.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: And he will not get very many votes if he advocates on the public platform at that time the extraordinary views he has given this House to-night. The hon. member also made one or two other statements that were absolutely incorrect. He said that at Halifax we had let out mechanics but nobody else, that all the clerks were retained. Let me tell my hon. friend that since the demobilization orders were issued, we have let out at Halifax 34 civilian clerks, 93 mechanics, 42 naval officers, and 227 men of other naval ratings. The hon. member gives the Government no credit whatever for reorganizing the navy, inefficient as it was. We have had a thorough reorganization, and have let out 782 officers and men of other ratings and civilians whom we did not require, and who did not possess the necessary knowledge and efficiency. Our navy is small, I admit, but it is going to be efficient, and there will be nothing political about it. With these modern torpedo boat destroyers, submarines, and the cruiser, we shall be in the best possible condition to train the graduates of our naval colleges and the young Canadians who, we hope, will join our Naval Service. Not only have we a long coast line in this country, but we have also a mercantile marine, which will consist of 63 ships, which we must endeavour to protect.

My hon. friend from Lunenburg says in a scornful way that the cruiser, the torpedo boat destroyers, and the submarines will be of no value in time of war. It is quite evident to me that my hon. friend did not cross the ocean during the war. If he had done so, I am sure he would have felt greatly relieved, as did all the passengers

and soldiers who crossed the ocean in those times of peril, to see in the far distance the smoke of approaching torpedo boat destroyers, those effective ships with a speed of thirty-five knots, zig-zagging along, up and down each side of the ship, and in front and behind, forming an almost perfect guard against submarines. If he had had that experience he would have a much higher opinion of torpedo boat destroyers than he entertains at the present time. I have only one more remark to make.

Mr. COPP: Hear, hear.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: The hon. member says "hear, hear." Surely it is no harm to place the actual facts before the people on such a question as this.

Mr. COPP: It was a note of encouragement.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: The hon. member for Lunenburg said that there would be no promotion for Canadians on these ships. There again he is in error. I am happy to say that when the ships arrive from England every officer on board the cruiser, the torpedo boat destroyers and the submarines will be a Canadian, except the four senior officers.

Mr. DUFF: What rank will these officers hold?

Mr. BALLANTYNE: The Canadian officers will be lieutenants and commanders. The captain of the cruiser will be an admiralty officer. With the exception of Captain Hose we have not in Canada an officer with sufficient knowledge to take command of a cruiser, but just as soon as Canadian officers are trained, the policy of the Government is to put Canadian officers on all these ships, and let the British officers go back home. Furthermore our Canadian officers will rank equally with the British naval officers on the other side, and will have the same opportunity for promotion in the home fleet as if they were on a cruiser in home waters. I am quite satisfied that the committee will pass this item, after we have heard possibly from one or two other members.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend (Mr. Ballantyne) said that the Toronto Globe had spoken with approval of the Government's naval policy. Would the minister inform us what the Government's naval policy is?

Mr. BALLANTYNE: My hon. friend need not try to draw a red herring across the trail. He knows perfectly well that I was