

the hon. member for Westminster (Mr. J. D. Taylor) and myself watched, in our light hearted way, a dirigible balloon ascending into the heavens, into the clouds, and when the steering gear went wrong, the balloon became not less a balloon, but less dirigible, and descended into the waters of the Fraser, and was carried away to the ocean of oblivion. 'Oh loyalty, what crimes are committed in thy name,' the hon. gentleman cries, and forthwith he proceeds to perpetrate the crimes. He asks:

At the time of the South African war, were we disloyal when we sent—

Mark that, my countrymen:

—when we sent to South Africa the young men of this country to fight the battles of Great Britain?

The government sent the Canadian boys to South Africa! It was the other way about, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian boys sent the government about their business, and despite the technical obstacle they put in their way, they went to South Africa, as I have had occasion to say in this House before, they rushed to South Africa as to a festival. The hon. member for Sunbury and Queens, (Mr. H. H. McLean) made what, in many respects, was an excellent speech. It was the first note of Canadian manliness we have heard from the government benches. That brave soldier of the King stood up in his place in this House, and told his leader, man-fashion, that he did not share his aspirations for the independence of Canada, that his proposed fleet was but a sorry substitute for the fleet unit recommended by the admiralty, that the right hon. gentleman's denial that there was anything in the nature of an emergency or crisis was but the song of a dying swan, sweet in tone, but of brief duration. For my part after hearing that right hon. gentleman, I could not help thinking of that fabled goddess, fair to look upon and tempting to follow, but, when embraced, turning into a cloud. Had the member for Sunbury and Queens commenced his inquiry, instead of on the 7th of October, 1909, on the 3rd of October, 1899, he would have found something to indicate that there was a holding back on the part of the Prime Minister in regard to sending our boys to South Africa. Everybody in this House remembers that on the 3rd of October, 1899, the right hon. the Prime Minister granted an interview to a representative of the 'Globe' in this very city, wherein he said that the Militia Act would not allow us to send our boys to the front, and that anyway Canada was not menaced. Every one will remember that a few days afterwards, on the 5th of October, 1899, Sir Charles Tupper, then leader of the Conservative party in this House, wired the Prime Minister expressing the hope that the Canadian boys would be allowed to go to South

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Africa, and assuring the Prime Minister that if the government allowed them to go, it would receive the support of the Conservative party. The hon. member for Sunbury and Queens, seemed also to overlook the fact that after the publication of that interview in the Toronto 'Globe,' on the 4th of October, 1899, there arose from the people of Canada a ground swell of indignation, expressed in telegrams, in resolutions, in memorials, such a ground swell that it swept the Prime Minister and the government away from the position they had taken of putting petty obstacles in the way of the Canadian boys going to the front.

The Postmaster General exclaims: Are we disloyal when we are the first in the history of this Dominion to give His Majesty the King a navy? If that navy is to be taken as the measure of Liberal loyalty to the King, then heaven help the King. If that act is the measure of Liberal loyalty, the Postmaster General and his party are free to suck such comfort out of it as they may. The Postmaster General tells us what apparently he thinks we did not know before, that we have a double sea-board, and he asks us not to cast any aspersions on this so-called tin pot navy because there, across the Pacific, was Japan awakening and putting on the forms of European civilization and government, and China, and this navy was intended to protect British Columbia from the attacks not only of China and Japan, but also of Russia and the United States. He forgets that we, the people of Canada, know that the admiralty realize that the completion of the present naval programme of Japan will synchronize with the termination of the treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan, and that the admiralty realize the significance of that fact, not only to Great Britain, but to that part of Great Britain, that portion of Canada, British Columbia. For that main reason, the admiralty suggested that Canada should provide a fleet unit on the Pacific because the Atlantic sea-board is within striking distance of the royal navy, and its trade routes can be protected without any help from Canada. But in that policy of putting a fleet unit on the Pacific, the right hon. the leader of the government and his followers see no votes, it is not the necessity of Canada or the defence of the empire, it is votes they are after, and the Postmaster General would have us believe that this mutilated fleet, emasculated of its only fighting ship, emasculated of the battleship, this mutilated fleet, divided between the Atlantic and the Pacific, would be sufficient to resist the attacks, not only of China and Japan, but of Russia and the United States. The childish absurdity of this schoolboy rhe-