

in my humble judgment, whether we continue to rely upon the protection of the great British fleet—and every one of us in this parliament is anxious and willing to make the greatest possible sacrifices in order that we may so continue whether we so continue, or whether we are to abandon British connection and rely solely and wholly on the Munroe doctrine for our protection, our own public spirit, the pride and self respect of our people will certainly declare that whether protected by the navy of Great Britain or by the navy of the United States we must contribute a fair proportion to the support of the protecting navy. I think it is perfectly evident from my observations made in this House on former occasions, that I am one of those who do not believe in militant imperialism. I believe that, the imperialism that is going round flopping the flag and insulting, and causing quarrels with other nations is the greatest mistake in the world. And, even though some gentlemen who deem it extremely loyal to flaunt the flag, may think that one who objects to that is not loyal, I venture to say that the highest and truest loyalty to the British empire is to be found in the endeavour to keep that empire out of difficulty and trouble. If you regard the condition of the German navy at the present day you will find certain curious things. In the first place you find in Germany a most remarkable growth of naval power. It is only a few years since there was no German navy. I must confess that I sometimes think it is the irony of history that to-day Great Britain is being cursed to a very considerable extent by the dread of a German navy, when I recollect that in 1850, in the days before the German empire was established and when the German confederation existed, there was a difficulty about Heligoland, and when the Germans sent out some of their hired fleet, they were notified by the British government that there was no such flag known on the seas as the German flag, and that any vessel flying that flag would be treated as a pirate. I do not think that any one who has any conscience at all would to-day justify on the part of Great Britain such treatment of the inferior naval power of Germany at that time. At all events Germany has reached a position to-day that no vessel flying the German flag is longer in danger of being treated as a pirate. It is within the memory of most of us living, when Germany scarcely had a sea-port and when the German empire had to buy five square miles from the Duchy of Oldenburg to get a naval station. We know that the naval stations of Kiel, Wilhelmshaven, Emden and Elbing are practically artificial, and that when the present German Emperor came to the throne Germany scarcely had the semblance of

Mr. CONGDON.

anything approaching a navy. The progress made by Germany in creating a navy is surprising to every one who studies the evolution of the nation. The great progress of Germany in the construction of warlike ships has been accompanied by equal progress in the building of merchant vessels, and by the industry, the aptitude, and the intelligence of her people Germany has to-day placed herself in a very considerable position among the nations of the world, as regards both her naval and merchant service. It is a noticeable fact that the decline of ship building in Canada was practically concurrent with the growth of ship building in Germany. It was due undoubtedly to the fact that wooden ships had passed their day, that steel ships were coming into vogue requiring mechanics, artisans, stokers, electricians, all congenial to the scientific bent of the German people. Germany started to build a navy, and Germany has to-day a navy that is certainly remarkable considering the short time spent in its development.

On the motion of Mr. Congdon the debate was adjourned.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, February 17, 1910.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

VOLUNTEERS BOUNTIES ACT.

Mr. S. SHARPE:

Is it the intention of the government to so amend the Volunteers Bounties Act to enable the Canadian civil surgeons who served in the war to receive grants? If not, why not?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER. It is not considered advisable to enlarge the scope of the Act.

BEAUHARNOIS CANAL LESSEES.

Mr. MONK:

1. What persons occupying government lands along the Beauharnois canal, now under lease, to the Canadian Light and Power Company, are at present indebted for rent, and for what amount?

2. Has the government given instructions to issue legal proceedings against such persons so indebted for arrears of rent?

3. If so, to what lawyers or firm of lawyers have such instructions been given?

4. What instructions have been given?

5. What persons have been sued?

6. Have instructions been given to sue all or only some? If so, which of the persons so indebted?