

mapped out for us by the great men of Canada, using our growing revenues for peaceful purposes, that beget and reproduce wealth, and make for general prosperity and success. In that way we do far more for Britain and ourselves than in following in the mad rush for armaments.

Besides the objection that this Bill is contrary to our constitution and a violation of the principles of responsible government, there is the question of what good will the gift be. What need is there of it? When Britain's prestige was threatened during the South African war, we sent troops to her assistance. We did something useful. We rendered not only moral assistance, but practical assistance. Fighting men could then be utilized, and they were of immense benefit to the Motherland. The Canadian boys helped out the Mother Country and did credit to themselves as well as bring glory to our fair Dominion. If a similar situation should arise in the future, Canada can be depended upon to do its duty again no matter whether a Conservative or a Liberal government is in power, whether our Premier is a French Catholic or an English-speaking Orangeman. But of what earthly use is three empty dreadnoughts to Britain when she has all the ships she requires or can man, as is conclusively proven by the responsible and carefully considered statements of the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Premier of Great Britain and other English statesmen including Bonar Law, the leader of the Opposition, whose remarks have been repeatedly quoted in this House? I had intended to quote from C. H. Cahan, a leading lawyer in Montreal, who as late as October 3 last in a letter to the *Montreal Gazette* clearly demonstrated, and conclusively proved, there is no need or panic or alarm. Mr. Cahan is a Nova Scotian, and was a few years ago the leader of the Conservative party in the legislature of Nova Scotia, a Tory of the Tories, of whose loyalty and Imperialism there is no doubt. He quoted the speeches of such men as the Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Bonar Law, the Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Winston Churchill, such men as Lord Crew, Earl Brassey, Colonel Seeley, Secretary for War, and the leading newspapers on both sides of politics, to prove that England had the situation well in hand, and was able to cope with any combination that could by any possibility be formed against her. And he showed further that the relations between England and her alleged enemy and destroyer, Germany, were never more friendly and cordial. I could understand the Canadian Government and Parliament when the McKenna German war scare was on in 1909, offering \$35,000,000 in cash or

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pledging her credit for battleships to that extent, or even a great deal more, in the absence of any other better way of showing our sympathy with and support to the Motherland. But now, at this date, when there is not a speck of a war cloud upon the political horizon so far as England is concerned, it is hard for me to understand how any party can justify such a proposition. It can be explained on one ground only and that is that this offer of three dreadnoughts more, in the absence of any other can be explained on one ground only, and to be virtually owned by England, manned and maintained in England, is made as a matter of political expediency purely to placate the Nationalists, on one side, who say that nothing should be done, and the jingoes, on the other, who say that nothing can be done right from a military or naval standpoint, but that which is done from Downing Street. Already the Nationalists have said to their friends that they have won out in this country. They say that they had to humour the large English-speaking majority in this country, who have some rights, they admit, and that the Nationalists have consented to spend \$35,000,000 on these ships, horrible, hideous things to be built in England, away from the shores of our country, where they cannot be seen by any Canadians, and they will be kept away off there on the North Sea with not a Canadian boy or man on them. It is true the Nationalists say this money could be better spent in wharfs and harbours and public works in the province of Quebec but they say that they have to humour the English-speaking majority, that they are doing so by contributing the \$35,000,000, but that that is all it will cost us. No navy and no more expense on naval armaments for us, they say. Here are the words quoted from *L'Evenement*, supposed to voice the sentiments of the Postmaster General.

It is only a gift of money. You will never hear any more of it. There is no danger. The British will hire men at twenty-five cents a day, and Canadian mothers and sisters will suffer no loss. As for the money, Ontario will pay for it, and the West will pay for it. It will not take your sons from your homes, as the infernal Laurier would do.

That is the way they talk in Quebec; but when they came to some of the other provinces, to the great province of Ontario, the loyal consistent Tories sing a different tune altogether. They will not admit that it is the great province of Ontario that is to pay the \$35,000,000. Oh, no, the flag flappers there will say that this \$35,000,000 is only an earnest of our devotion to the Empire, it is only the beginning of what we are going to do; we are going to develop, later on, a permanent policy that