

ence to Premier Borden's offer of battleships to the Mother Country:—

'Much comment is evoked by Canada's offer to furnish this country with three battleships. Did the Dominion elect to build, man and maintain its own navy we would not interpose. But a gift which greatly adds to our annual expenditure is open to criticism. Accepting Government assurances that our defensive forces are sufficient and efficient, these three vessels must be in excess of requirements. Besides which, giving the colonies representation on the Imperial Defence Committee is a departure fraught with such far-reaching consequences that it must be subjected to searching inquiry. In resisting unnecessary and provocative armaments, which squander wealth otherwise badly needed, we have the glorious consciousness that the future peace, happiness and well-being of the world's millions largely depend on our exertions.'

This represents fairly the Labour point of view and the view of most Liberals on the question.

So it is perfectly obvious that my right hon. friend, by pursuing the course that he has adopted, has divided public opinion not only in this country, but in Great Britain as well, and in doing so he has dealt a fatal blow to the cause of Imperial unity which he and his friends profess to have so much at heart.

I have said that as a Canadian I will oppose this Bill. Let me add that I will oppose it also as a Liberal. In taking that position I have the authority and endorsement of the Right Hon.

Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, who, in addressing his constituents some years ago, said:

In my judgment a Liberal is a man who ought to stand as a restraining force against an extravagant policy. He is a man who ought to keep cool in the presence of jingo clamour. He is a man who believes that confidence between nations begets confidence, and that the spirit of peace and good will makes the safety it seeks. And above all, I think, a Liberal is a man who should keep a sour look for scaremongers of every kind and every size, however distinguished, however ridiculous—and sometimes the most distinguished are the most ridiculous—a cold, chilling, sour look for all of them, whether that panic comes from the sea, or from the air, or from the earth, or from the waters under the earth.

In that declaration by the present First Lord of the Admiralty there is a noble sentiment, nobly expressed:

The spirit of peace and goodwill makes the safety it seeks

Mr. Speaker, that is the spirit in which a Canadian naval policy was conceived by a Liberal Government; and it is because we believe that Canada is still animated by that spirit that we are unalterably opposed to the present Bill, and demand that it be submitted to the people in order that they may pass judgment upon it.