

contribution from the people of Canada, such an amount as may be sufficient to purchase or construct two battleships or armoured cruisers of the latest Dreadnought type, giving to the admiralty full discretion to expend the said sum at such time and for such purposes of naval defence as in their judgment may best serve to increase the united strength of the empire and thus assure its peace and security.

Great objection has been made particularly to that last clause. Several speakers on the government side have said that we have asked authority to give away \$25,000,000. Of course a matter of \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000 is neither here nor there with the present government, but I would like to know where they get their authority for two Dreadnoughts costing \$25,000,000. The estimate given by the British admiralty for a Dreadnought of the latest type is £2,000,000, and yet, in the face of that, they have repeatedly asserted that the opposition are prepared to give away \$25,000,000 of the people's money. After all, it is not a question of amount, but of principle, and I am here to endorse that principle. Sir, that will do more for Canada and for the empire than the navy they are proposing at this particular time. And the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. E. M. Macdonald) says: Not only will they give away \$25,000,000 of your money, but you will never receive any benefit from it. I would like to ask hon. members on the other side of the House, whether, after carefully weighing those words, they honestly and sincerely can subscribe to the doctrine thus expressed—that money given to the mother country in a time of need will produce no benefit to Canada or to the British empire. That is a proposition that has been thrown across the floor of the House several times this afternoon—that we are giving away the people's money, from which they are to receive no benefit. We have taken great credit to ourselves for our wonderful growth and prosperity. I want to say, as a Canadian born, that there is no man in this House more loyal to Canada, more interested in, or more proud of its vast development, than I am, yet I want to say also that I realize that the best blood of our mother nation has been shed to water the soil of our country, that the best blood of her people has been shed that we might have the peace and prosperity under which we have grown from an infant to a great nation. But, while I do not hesitate to say, equally with those on the other side of the House, that I look forward to the continued growth and prosperity of this country of ours, and believe that we shall be a nation, I believe also that we shall be a nation within the empire. And I want to say at once—because, as I said, I do not propose to weary or detain the House—I would change once more the metaphor of the First Minister. He has repeated this metaphor over and

over again—that the time will come when we shall drop from the parent tree as the fruit drops from the limb. Let me say that to my mind the time has come when, as the new wood is grafted upon the old stock, so the dominions overseas shall be grafted on the mother of nations, and we shall become a mighty tree whose branches shall shelter and assure the peace and commerce of the world.

Mr. MICHAUD. In the absence of the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Beau-parlant), and, on his behalf, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH GERMANY.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING. By command of His Excellency the Governor General, I beg to place before the House copy of a commercial agreement between Germany and Canada, signed at Ottawa this day, together with certain papers connected therewith.

Mr. FIELDING moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What business will be taken up to-morrow?

Mr. FIELDING. We shall continue the naval debate.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, February 16, 1910.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Two o'clock.

DOMINION LANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. MAGRATH moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 143), to amend the Dominion Lands Act. He said: The object of the Bill is to surround our western water-powers with greater safeguards than at present exist. Under the Dominion Lands Act no period is fixed for which licenses shall issue. Under the regulations prescribed by the Governor in Council that period is restricted to 25 years. I believe it is in the interest of the public, who own these water-powers, that that period should be fixed by law. There is no intention in this Bill to lessen the authority of the Minister of the Interior who issues these licenses. The Bill provides that no license shall be issued for longer than 25 years in any of our northwestern provinces nor for longer than 10 years in any unorganized territory.