

Beardmore..	2,000,000	1,716,521
John Brown..	3,218,500	1,018,292
Thames Iron Works...	600,000	261,044
	£17,601,395	£10,180,568

So, we have here seven millions of pounds sterling of water stocks, or fictitious stocks.

Allow me now, Mr. Speaker, to give you the opinion of one of the principal organs of the Conservative party, I mean the Montreal Gazette. That paper, which now approves the ministerial measure, has published the following article:

The most recent manifestations of the anti-German agitation is shown in a circular which incites the press (the public) to raise such a hubbub that the British Government may fear to slacken the construction of new ships, pending what the governments of the other colonies might do in that respect. The idea predominating is to cause the contributions of the colonies to be considered as a surplus of strength, in addition to those which the experts affirm to be sufficient. There are certain persons who say that the desire to supply work to the gun shops must be sought for behind the public agitation clamouring for more ships; and it looks very much as if those people were right.

You can see, Mr. Speaker, that I have reason to say that the only urgency which may exist must be sought for in the orders given to those industries, and not in the fear of a war between Germany and England; and, to prove that, I have only to refer to the declaration of Mr. Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty. I have no desire to delay the committee in reading that anew, because that has already been read in the course of this discussion.

I might also give you the opinion of another Conservative organ, which exercises to-day a great influence on the present Government. I mean the Montreal Star. This is what the Star was saying, on the 30th of March, 1907:

The first Imperial duty of Canada to-day is to grow. In some quarters there is too much impatience to cash in its growth at once, thereby hampering further growth. The strength of Canada is potential rather than actual; and the best service it can render its partners in the British Empire is to make that strength actual as soon as possible. Every ounce of our energy, every spare dollar, should be put now into the development of the Dominion.

When we have three times as great a population and ten times as much wealth, then we can talk about establishing an Imperial Council in which we will not be a negligible quantity; and we can count for something, too, in a military and even a naval way. But the requisite of the moment is patience. We must creep before we can walk; and it will be an act of colossal stupidity to compel us to walk at so early an age—nationally—as to permanently stunt our national development.

I approve those words, Mr. Speaker, and that language ought to be observed, as far

Mr. MARCILE.

as possible, by the Government. And if, to keep intact the inheritance which comes to us from our ancestors, it is necessary to contribute a part of our revenue for the defence, let that defence be in the country and for the benefit of our Canada, so dear to every one of us.

We can do here what has been done elsewhere, notwithstanding Mr. Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty. We have proven in the past that we had in Canada enterprising and intelligent men. We have been able to build several lines of transcontinental railways, and magnificent bridges, surpassing in splendour what we had ever seen before. We have magnificent industries conducted by Canadians, and when we are told that we could not build war ships, I have no hesitation to declare that such an insult is a wanton insult thrown at the face of the Canadian people, and which our workmen will certainly resent. I could show you, Mr. Speaker, that a great many Canadians are working to-day in machine shops in the United States, and are engaged in building war ships. And why so? Because we have given up that construction here. Is there an hon. member in this House who would be ready to admit that in Canada we have not the necessary number of intelligent workmen for the building of our own ships? I do not believe it, Mr. Speaker.

Is England in need of that contribution? I do not believe it, neither. If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, I will read you what the Daily News and the Leader of London were saying on the 28th of November last:

What the English people is anxious to know is if the ships which are being offered to us by some of our dominions or colonies, or which are being built there, will in fact be an aid to the people of Great Britain or will not simply constitute an additional burden.

If a corresponding reduction in the programme of the Admiralty should derive from that offer, which program must be reasonably considered as being adequate, independently of the ships being offered, the said program being dependent on the taxes paid by the English people, then the different States of the Empire will really share the burden of the Imperial navy and will thus so far be a relief for the population of the British Isles. But if the ships offered by the dominions or colonies are a useless expansion of a program so far sufficient, then the dominions and colonies are not doing any good to anybody, and they are rather a source of harm to themselves and to the people of the British Isles. Superfluous ships are no addition to the security of the Empire. They only add to the burden of the English taxpayers who will have to operate and maintain them.

In view of those remarks, and taking into consideration what has taken place since the British North America Act, I say, Mr. Speaker, that we must not accept that measure of the Government, which is unconstitutional and contrary to the wishes of