

therein expressed as regards the policies which are now under discussion, not merely in this House but throughout Canada and the Empire. In the issue of February 27, 1913, the following appears:

The Conservative policy is open to objections no less fatal and even more fundamental. By contributing at this time to the British navy we are simply helping, from our side, to perpetuate that senseless rivalry in military and naval armaments that is rushing the life out of the European nations.

But there is a great deal more than that involved in the Conservative policy. It has a bearing upon the whole question of our country's destiny. The dream which we believe is cherished by the great mass of Canada's young manhood is that we should build up, in this great northern zone, under the British Crown, a free nation, facing the problems and discharging the responsibilities which nationhood involves. Among these responsibilities is that of providing for our own defence and deciding in what wars, if any, we should voluntarily engage. To send away money, which may be used in waging war over whose inception we can have no control, and which in some cases might appear to our people unrighteous, is to establish a precedent that might well be fatal to our highest aspirations.

Such naval preparation as Canada may make at this time should, in our humble judgment, be on a modest scale, proportioned to our needs as a peace-loving and peace-seeking nation, whose fixed policy will be to submit such misunderstandings as may arise with other nations to the decision of a judicial tribunal rather than to the arbitrament of the sword. By thus providing for our own need we shall fulfill our responsibility as a component part of the Empire, while, at the same time, we can, with consistency and a clear conscience, join in the attempt to bring the civilized nations together for the purpose of making international arbitration the fixed and universal rule.

Such are the views of the organ of the great Presbyterian body of this Dominion; and I adopt as my own the sentiment they express. In doing so, I venture to say that these sentiments are not peculiar to the Presbyterian body, but are the sentiments of every religious body and of all classes in Canada.

I know that it is popular, at times, to cry aloud with respect to Imperialism and the achievements, the military and naval achievements, of Great Britain. I bow with admiration and respect to the past history of Britain in that regard, and I am glad to be a citizen of a young nation that shares in the traditions and glories of England's past. And I am willing, as one member of this young nation to do all that is in my power individually to help in every way possible the continuance of the might and power of England. But I want it done on sane principles; I want to adopt a course which I believe will mean the perpetuation of the British Empire, and not

its destruction. And it occurs to me very strongly—and I wish that I could express myself with the force that I feel—that in following the proposal of my right hon. friend the leader of this Government we are simply launching out upon a policy that is fraught with danger, that is fraught with humiliation to our people, that is calculated to lower our own self-respect and the esteem in which we are held by people in other lands, and even by the people of the United Kingdom. My right hon. friend, in introducing the resolution on the 5th of December, spoke of difficulties. And what he said has been repeated time and again—the difficulties that we should have in constructing vessels and in manning them. I am sure these words were listened to with regret, and that they have been read throughout this country with still deeper regret, because, Sir, when the Prime Minister loses faith in this country and its people, when those charged with the administration of affairs look without confidence upon us, then indeed we have come to a pretty low ebb. In former days we built ships; we were a great maritime power. In this debate attention has been called to the fact that we have been pioneers in navigation. Has my right hon. friend forgotten then that the very first steamship that ever crossed the Atlantic was wholly constructed in Canada? If men forget this, let them read the inscription on the brass tablet that is on the wall of the entrance to the Parliament library, placed there under the auspices of a governor general to commemorate a great event. And the inscription reads as follows:

In honour of the men by whose enterprise, courage and skill the Royal William, the first vessel to cross the Atlantic by steam power, was wholly constructed in Canada, and navigated to England in 1833; the pioneer of those mighty fleets of ocean steamers on which passengers and merchants of all nations are now conveyed on every sea throughout the world.

The people that could accomplish that in 1833 have not surely become so puny that not only can they not carry out, but they cannot even inaugurate, a policy which will mean the construction of a Canadian naval fleet. The lack of confidence in the skill and energy of Canadians is pitiable in the leader of the Government. It reminds me of a story that is told of one of the Admirals of the United States, I think it was Admiral DuPont. He was explaining to Admiral Farragut why it was that he had failed to enter Charleston harbour with his ironclads. He gave this reason, and that reason, and the other, and paused. And Farragut in reply said: 'There is one other reason.' DuPont amazed, inquired what was that reason. 'Why, DuPont,' said